



Lifeguard's medal success - SEE PAGE 3

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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Closed street circuit featuring Wales' top racing talent...

High class cycle racing is back in Porthcawl

STREETS near Porthcawl seafront will be closed this Sunday so that cycle racing can make a return to the town.

Around 200 cyclists are set to turn out along Porthcawl seafront this Sunday (September 15) in the Porthcawl Seafront Criterium, featuring a series of exciting cycle races through the town centre on a classic, closed-road 1.2km street circuit.

The day's racing will culminate in the Senior Welsh Circuit Race Championships, set to feature a crop of Wales' top cycling talent.

The Championships have been awarded to Porthcawl following a successful bid by local cycling club, Port Talbot Wheelers. It is the first time cycle racing has returned to the town in more than 10 years.

Porthcawl once attracted the historic Tour of Britain 'Milk Race' in 1959, when a stage starting in Aberystwyth finished in the town.

This return of competitive cycle racing is down to race organiser David Lloyd, a member of Port Talbot Wheelers, with support from a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), its highways department and Welsh Cycling.

David Lloyd said: "I remember as a child watching some spectacular cycle racing on the

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

promenade, and I feel really proud to have the support of both the town and borough councils to help revive street racing at Porthcawl.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for children to cycle on a closed road in front of a crowd. The setting is really exciting for spectators and I hope the local community come out on the day to show their support."

"It would have been impossible to promote this event without the help of local business and thanks must go to all those who've sponsored the event."

Similar events in other UK regions have generated in excess of £15,000 for local businesses.

The chairman of the Bridgend Tourism Association, and the director of Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Karl Schmidtknecht, said:

"Tourism businesses in Bridgend county welcome the return of championship cycling to Porthcawl."

"It extends the tourism season and the association looks forward to assisting and supporting the event in future years."

The racing will follow a fast and fun street circuit featuring some tight turns, before passing Porthcawl Lifeboat Station in the Harbour

Quarter, and returning along the promenade.

The racing starts at 1.30pm with a series of youth races for under-16s, followed by junior and senior races.

Other races include women's races, and a 'Traders' Go-Race event for those wishing to get on a bike for fun.

The cycling events will run right into the evening finishing with the event highlight, the Elite Men's Senior Race at 6.30pm, which is part of the Welsh Circuit Championships.

The Porthcawl Rock Festival also takes place on the day, from 12pm to 7pm with free entry.

VOLUNTEERS HELP PUT BRIDGEND'S BEACHES BACK TO THEIR BEST!



ABOVE: Eco enthusiasts get ready to clean up Newton Beach.

SOME of Porthcawl's most popular beaches have been spruced up after a joint beach cleaning effort from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), local businesses and residents.

Co-ordinated by the council's countryside and tourism team, a group of eco-enthusiasts took to the shores and car parks at Coney Beach, Newton Beach and Trecco Bay armed with litter pickers.

Joining council workers and volunteers were members of staff from Keep Wales Tidy, the Hi-Tide Inn, Trecco Bay and Porthcawl Lifeguards.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James, said: "All the people and organisations who donated their time and effort to

clear up the beaches deserve credit. They did a fantastic job and made a really significant impact."

"However, while it's great to see the community pulling together in this way, litter picking is a job that shouldn't need to be done at all."

"It's irritating that some people don't seem to care about the county borough's beautiful scenery, as their selfish actions affect everyone's ability to enjoy it. Please take your litter home."

Another litter picking event is taking place at Newton Burrows on Saturday, September 14, where volunteers will meet at Beach Road at 10am.

To find out more, contact Robert Jones, countryside management officer, on 01656 643160 or email robert.jones@bridgend.gov.uk.

Kenfig Hill man jailed over the assault of train guard

SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

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Sunflowers stand tall at nature reserve

A STUNNING display of sunflowers in a wild meadow of rare plants is bringing smiles to country-lovers at a South Wales nature reserve.

After recent warm weather, the sunflowers are standing tall – amidst a field of swaying corn marigolds at the South and West Wales Wildlife Trust's Parc Slip reserve at Tondur, near Bridgend.

A spokesman said: "They serve as a reminder of the need to save Britain's declining old flower meadows, where bees and other insects pollinate plants to help promote a balance of nature."

"The meadow is part of long-term plans to transform the 250-acre reserve into a country retreat where nature conservation and farming can work in harmony."

Trust conservation officer Rob Parry said: "The plan was to create a wild flower meadow to help feed over-wintering birds such as linnets, goldfinches and yellowhammers."

"However, the flowers are proving to be a wonderful sight for visitors. Next year, we will extend the wild flowers in six hectares of hayfields to be managed and cut by local farmers. This will be a sustainable benefit to both cultural and economic value to wildlife and agriculture."

"There has been a drastic decline in old wild flower meadows since 1945 and we are left with just fragments of such important habitat. So the plan at Parc Slip is to try and reverse this trend with the reintroduction of flowers such as corn cockle and corn marigold, as well as other hayfield flowers and grasses."

The trust has recently opened its newly-refurbished visitor centre at a cost of £300,000, and already it's proving to be an attractive focus for many visitors from far and wide. A coffee shop – providing home-made sandwiches and cakes – is also a new amenity. And there's free entry to the centre and reserve.

For more information, telephone 01656 724100. **RM**

Who wants to build what and where?

Dinbarth Community Garden – Land rear of Glyn Street, Ogmere Vale – To develop the ground into a communal growing area with raised beds and fencing.

Mr Nigel Matthews – 180 Bryn Road, Brynmenyn – Porch extension to front including WC.

Mr P Collins – 39 Hall Drive, North Cornelly – Single storey extension to rear to provide kitchen/family room and porch to front elevation.

Mr M Davies – 11 Heol-y-Graig, Porthcawl – Two storey kitchen, garage, bedroom and ensuite extension to side elevation and single storey sun lounge to rear.

Mr H Kinsella – 72 Bridgend Road, Maesteg – Two storey and single storey extensions to rear elevation and two bay windows to front elevation.

BCBC Children's Directorate – Blaenllynfi Infant School, Grosvenor Terrace, Maesteg – Demolition of three school blocks.

Mr R Watkins – Pleasant View, Fairfield Avenue, Maesteg – 1 no. detached dwelling (outline application).

Susan James Securities Ltd – Y Lletty, Heol yr Ysgol, Coity – Ground and first floor extensions.

Mr Don Tickner – 1 Locks Court, Porthcawl – Outline application to construct new dwelling (re-sub of P/13/457/OUT).

Mr Baker – 96 West Park Drive, Porthcawl – Orangery conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr John Maynard – 33 Park Place, Sarn – Two storey rear extension.

Mrs Shelly Pengilly – 17 Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig – Alteration to front elevation of shop premises by re-positioning first floor windows.

Mr David Hopkins – 21 Pen yr Heol, Pen-y-Fai – Single storey extension and Juliette balcony.

Mr David Hopkins – 21 Pen yr Heol, Pen-y-Fai – Single storey extension and Juliette balcony.

New deadline for library competition

LOCAL arts enthusiasts are being given extra time to let their creative juices flow as the deadline for a competition to have their designs featured on Bridgend Library and Information Service's new membership cards has been extended.

The competition, previously reported in The

Youth to the fore at choir's annual concert

BRIDGEND Male Choir's annual concert in St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Friday September 27, at 7pm will feature some special guests.

This year, the choir has invested in the musical future by providing a platform for four young Welsh soloists from 15 to nine years old – Jodi Bird, sisters Carys and Charlotte Lewis and Niamh Reese.

Jodi Bird (15) from Penarth, is a budding actress, who is also a keen harpist, pianist and flautist, and is no

stranger to sharing the stage with international stars.

Bridgend MC is fortunate to have the Lewis sisters sharing the platform too. Just nine years of age, Carys won two brass categories at the Treorchy Eisteddfod this year and last year, as well as being awarded the trophy for the 'most promising brass player of the day'. Carys is a member of the 'Cory Junior Academy'.

Her sister, 14-year-old Charlotte, is a winner both as a cornet player and vocalist. Not only an overall winner in the Treorchy Male Choir Young Musician of the Year competition but also winner and runner-

up at the Urdd. Charlotte is a member of the Parc and Dare Band and the school band and orchestra.

Niamh performed a side drum solo in her band's winning performance at the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh this year.

She will be competing with the band at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain in Cheltenham this month.

Tickets (£5) can be purchased from Porters Estate Agents, Nolton Street, Bridgend, and The News Shop, Dunraven Place or from choir secretary Gareth Reese, 07773 170373.

Banned books can win you prizes!

HAVE you ever read a 'banned' book?

Many people would probably answer this question 'no', but they may well have enjoyed a forbidden read without knowing.

Ahead of 'Banned Books Week' (September 22-28), libraries in Wales are offering members the chance to win a stack of previously censored novels and non-fiction titles by creating a 250-word review of a banned book they have read – and people entering the competition may be surprised at how many titles they have to choose from!

Among the titles on the remarkable list are works such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Harry Potter* and *The Philosopher's Stone*, *Black Beauty* and *Anne Frank's Diary*.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "This competition is a great opportunity for literary lovers to win a bundle of books simply by sharing their

views on a good read they've enjoyed."

"The list is full of surprises, so there's bound to be a tale or two that most of our library members have read. Who'd have thought that Harry Potter would have had a spell as a banned book?"

The competition, which runs until September 27, is open to library members over the

age of 16 who live, work or study in Wales.

Residents who aren't library members can enter the competition by signing up to their local library for free.

To find out more about the competition, for a full list of banned books (and who banned them) or to submit your entry, visit www.librarywales.org.uk

Praise for the Emmaus charity

I AM writing, in my role of vice-chair of the Westward Community Centre, to thank the charity and members of staff for carrying out Pat Testing at the centre.

In my view, this demonstrates that Emmaus prides itself on being a good neighbour to the local community, with no alcohol and drugs being allowed on the premises.

Once they are open, they are looking forward to having open days for neighbours to visit and to getting involved and joining in fundraising for local events. They have already made good links with the Westward Community Centre, who have been generous in letting Emmaus use their premises.

Emmaus is a charity which helps homeless people come off benefits and work in recycling donated furniture, bric-

brac and clothes. A community home is provided for previously homeless people to live in, where they find support and the opportunity to regain their confidence by helping others.

It is an international organisation started in France in 1949, and now found in 36 countries in the world. Although there are 23 Emmaus communities in England and one in Scotland the first Emmaus community in Wales is going to be opening next year in Newcastle ward in Bridgend.

Plans are under way to develop Nant Lais, the formerly sheltered accommodation in Cefn Glas.

If you want to know more, please visit www.emmaussouth-wales.org.uk or ring 07897388224. Emmaus shops are in Tremains Road, Nolton Street and New Road Porthcawl with a new shop planned for Maesteg in October. **Coun David White, Bridgend.**

BRYNGARW PARK FUN
BRYNGARW House and Country park in Brynmenyn, Bridgend, hold an autumn fayre on Sunday, September 15 between 12pm-5pm, on the lawn in front of Bryngarw House.

The family day will include a fair – trampoline, mini waltzer and a big slide, plus the popular duck race!

Admission to the autumn fayre is free, with a car park charge of £2.50.

Local businesses come up trumps for student film-makers



The young film-makers followed in the footsteps of legendary director David Lean by shooting at Merthyr Mawr beach – a scene in which their hero was rescued from a quicksand.



IN the past week a group of students from the University of South Wales has been out and about filming in various locations in the area, including Bridgend Industrial Estate and Merthyr Mawr beach.

Ashley Hancock, the producer, was delighted by the enthusiastic help he received from everyone involved.

"When we asked for a minibus, Eamonn Potts of Easyway minibuses looked at the script, reckoned we needed a proper bus and provided one."

"Costumes to Go decked out our extras in Lord of the Rings-style hooded cloaks, and the script required an industrial-sized tape measure. Chris Davies, the estate agent in Llantwit Major came up trumps on that one."

Jonah Jones, the writer from Llantwit Major, said: "There was everything we needed in the way of locations, around the Vale, from quicksand and an incoming tide, to an office block and a seaside cafe."

A traffic jam in Cardiff Bay was recreated in the Bridgend Industrial Estate. Actually setting it

up in the location as scripted would have been nigh impossible. So after a bit of fakery, it's fair to say that no real commuters were harmed during the filming.

Ashley also pointed out that they had been filming in Merthyr Mawr, one of the locations chosen for David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*: "Less camels in our film, though."

The film *Planning Meeting* forms part of Ashley Hancock's masters degree. **JJ**

ABOVE:
Cast and crew with the bus, about to be involved in a fake traffic jam. From left to right: Ashley Hancock (producer and cameraman) Chris Hoskins (The Running Man) Ellen Morris (The Running Man's assistant), Keren Schlink (Mysterious Hooded Figure) Jonah Jones (writer) James Cooper (sound) Josh Walker (Thomas).

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL SEPTEMBER 19)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
12 Thur	11.35	8.7	23.57	8.4
13 Fri			12.37	8.3
14 Sat	01.08	7.8	13.59	7.9
15 Sun	02.44	7.8	15.29	8.4
16 Mon	04.14	8.3	16.47	8.9
17 Tues	05.17	8.9	17.41	9.6
18 Wed	06.09	9.7	18.29	10.1
19 Thur	06.54	10.0	19.14	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Man is jailed over assault of train guard

A BRIDGEND man who assaulted a train guard on board an early morning service from Swansea has been jailed for four months, following a British Transport Police (BTP) investigation.

Patrick Gerard O'Connell, (29), of Two Stones Crescent, Kenfig Hill, was sentenced at Bridgend Magistrates' Court on Monday, September 2, after pleading guilty to a charge of assault by beating.

The court heard that on August 17, O'Connell was on the same train from Swansea to London Paddington as the victim, a 42-year-old man from Gowerton.

When the train guard was carrying out a routine ticket check after leaving Port Talbot, he noticed O'Connell – who had a ticket from Swansea to Port Talbot – was still on the train. When he told him he had to buy another ticket, he was met with a torrent of abuse.

The victim walked away but was followed by O'Connell, who was swearing at him and shouting that he would not buy a ticket. He tried reasoning with O'Connell but he refused to listen and continued screaming at the train guard, before he eventually calmed down and bought a ticket from Port Talbot to Bridgend.

However, as the train arrived at Bridgend rail station, O'Connell

punched the train guard on the mouth, causing him to stumble backwards, before grabbing him by the throat.

The attack – involving punches and kicks – continued until station staff came to the victim's aid and assisted in restraining O'Connell until he was arrested shortly afterwards.

In interview, O'Connell apologised for his behaviour, claiming the situation had arisen through "a bit of male pride", adding it was "something over nothing" which had quickly gotten out of hand.

As a result of the assault, the victim was taken to Morriston Hospital for treatment on his injuries, which included a cut mouth and inflammation to his neck and throat. He also had difficulty swallowing after the incident and suffered severe headaches.

O'Connell pleaded guilty when appearing at Bridgend Magistrates' Court and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

Superintendent Andy Morgan, of British Transport Police, said: "This was a totally unprovoked attack on a member of staff who was simply trying to carry out his job."

"The victim was subjected to a series of punches and kicks during the prolonged assault, which left him injured and in some distress."

"O'Connell's behaviour was totally unacceptable, and I welcome the sentence handed down."

Penybont lifeguard wins gold at Euro event



A LOCAL charity volunteer from Bridgend recently won gold medals at the European Championships for Surf Lifeguards in the Netherlands.

Lewis Rosewell (21), a member of Penybont Lifeguards, won two gold medals in the rescue-board category.

The competition was held near The Hague, in the Netherlands.

The North Sea conditions were challenging with strong winds and five foot waves.

Over 300 competitors from 18 countries, including the UK, France, Italy and Spain, took part in front of 1,600 spectators.

Lewis said: "It was a great honour to represent Britain and Penybont Lifeguards in the European Championships."

"I've been training hard for this and win-

ning was a fantastic feeling."

The competitions involve paddling a surf rescue board a set course in the sea, imitating a rescue operation.

Competitors are selected from the best surf lifeguards in each participating country.

Lewis, an apprentice civil engineer with local firm Set Site Limited is a volunteer lifeguard in his spare time. He has been a member of Penybont Lifeguards since he was seven years old.

Lewis is now looking to the future and training for competitions in 2014.

He explained: "My next goal is to take part at the World Championships in France next year."

"I'm training already and hope to be selected and help raise the profile of surf lifesaving in Wales."

Daredevil dads in skydive effort for ADHD Bridgend



ABOVE: The daredevil team.

RIGHT: A photo taken in flight

A TRIO of daredevil dads who embarked on a 13,000 foot skydive for ADHD Bridgend have thanked their supporters and sponsors following their successful landings.

Craig Piper, Matt Kenward and Pyle councillor Luke Ellis took the plunge together at Swansea Skydive Centre. Zoe Piper, vice-chair and lead fundraiser for ADHD Bridgend commended the fearless fathers who took flight to raise awareness of ADHD and the voluntary work being done to support families and adults living with ADHD in the Bridgend area.

Mrs Piper said: "We are all so proud of the



guys and the lengths and heights they were prepared to go to to raise awareness for ADHD Bridgend! We know that more needs to be done to improve understanding of ADHD and the reality of the condition in children and adults, which is why our campaign, 'Doing Something Different 4 ADHD' is so important."

Coun Luke Ellis, chair of the group added: "Too often, barriers are put in place and labels attached to people that can hold them back. "We want to share the message that ADHD can be accepted as a condi-

tion that can harness creativity and channel fearlessness in the right direction. "I think Craig and Matt have shown tremendous courage and dedication in doing this for ADHD Bridgend and now we are all back safe and sound, I think it's fair to say that the sky is the limit for ADHD Bridgend". For further information about the work of ADHD Bridgend, or to find out more about family or adult support groups for people with ADHD, log on to www.ADHDbridgend.org.uk.

Sony Pencoed praised by economy minister

THE highly-sophisticated and advanced manufacturing capabilities at Sony's UK Technology Centre in Pencoed were described as an invaluable asset to Wales by Economy Minister Edwina Hart last week.

The Minister made the comments at a launch event to promote a new range of hand-built professional camcorders to be manufactured at Pencoed this year.

The company is introducing six new models to its existing portfolio and producing more than 6,000 units a year, in addition to its existing systems.

Sony UK Tec is the only manufacturer in Europe making these new complex and intricate products for Sony and the new multi-formatted hand-built professional camcorders are regarded as the most advanced on the market.

Congratulating the Sony UK Technology Centre the Minister said: "This is excellent news and speaks volumes for the quality of work undertaken at Pencoed which has an international reputation as a centre of manufacturing excellence."

"The management at Pencoed has an innovative approach which has enabled it to make the transition from high volume, low value products to high-end manufacturing delivered by a highly skilled workforce."

She continued: "The Welsh Government has a



ABOVE: One of the new Sony cameras. RIGHT: Steve Dalton OBE of Sony.



very close and long-standing working relationship with Sony and I am pleased we were able to support this latest investment in new advanced products.

"It will create and safeguard jobs, ensure the centre's sustainability and help raise the profile of Wales in terms of advanced manufacturing capability and skills across Europe."

Steve Dalton OBE, the managing director of Sony Technology Centre said: "We have made substantial investments to the site in Pencoed in terms of equipment, new processes and additional skill sets, all supporting the diversification of our products and operations."

"The introduction of these new products will allow us to continue to excel in manufacturing by developing world-class products. Furthermore, it will see us as the only profession-

al device manufacturer to produce its products in Europe."

"As a result we are strategically positioned to supply and support our customers in Europe and this will add to the site's sustainability and future in the UK and Wales."

Katsunori Yamanouchi, the vice-president of Sony Professional Solutions Europe, added: "Our latest handheld camcorders are smaller devices with a broadcast specification so they are highly complex and intricate products to make."

"They require a lot of skill, knowledge and understanding of the latest manufacturing processes ensuring they are made with precision, accuracy and are of the highest quality."

Homeless charity gets cash boost

YOUNG charity volunteers have received a boost with a £1,000 donation from Western Power Distribution.

The donation will support Shelter Cymru's work to provide training sessions for young volunteers who want to become peer educators.

Rebecca Evans, education and youth officer explained: "Instances of homelessness and housing difficulties among young people are sadly on the increase."

"We have found the best way to deliver our prevention messages to young people is to train up volunteers who themselves have experienced difficulties when leaving home unsupported."

"Once the youngsters have completed their training, they become our ambassadors and visit secondary schools in south Wales and help to spread our message."

"We're delighted to be working in partnership with WPD and, thanks to their donation, we can help young people improve their skills, gain a qualification and develop the confidence to deliver training sessions to other young people."



WPD's Team Manager, Mark Greenslade joined students Dan O'Reilly (left) and Lewis Jones, with Rebecca Evans of Shelter Cymru at training session held in Maesteg.

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Cadets remember the Battle of Britain



ABOVE:

Kenfig Hill Cadets at the Battle of Britain Parade.

IT was a busy weekend for Air Cadets from Kenfig Hill.

On Saturday, eight cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron were bag packing at Morrison's Store in Port Talbot in aid of the Royal Air Force Association Wings appeal.

The day was steady and the cadets managed to raise £777.56, a wonderful achievement for the day.

Sgt (ATC) Gould, who was in charge of the party, would like to thank Morrison's, and the generosity of the people shopping there, for their help in this appeal.

On hand to assist with transport and supervision of the cadets was Pilot Officer C Lewis RAFVR (T).

Sunday, another day and cadets from Kenfig Hill and Pencoe took part in the Battle of Britain Parade at MoD St.Athan.

The event was held by the Royal Air Force Association, with the per-

mission of the station commander.

There was a short service with music provided by the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band.

The last post was played, after which there was a minute's silence. The weather, whilst overcast, stayed dry.

And finally on Sunday, four cadets from Kenfig Hill, under the supervision of Plt Off C Lewis RAFVR (T) and Plt Sgt (ATC) J Lloyd provided a Guard of Honour at the Civic Service for the Mayor and Mayoress, COUNS Clive and Pauline James, in Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill.

After the service, Plt Off Lewis RAFVR (T) and Plt Sgt (ATC) Lloyd were invited to the Civic Tea at the Heronstone Hotel in Bridgend.

So, as you can see, it was a very busy weekend for the staff and cadets of 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron!

Lindsay Thomas

It's a 'three-peat' in shield competition

WE are pleased to report that we retained, for the third year, the Margam Shield (for most points for entries for WIs with under 40 members) in the Glamorgan Federation WI Show, held in North Cornelly in July.

We narrowly missed winning again the Bridgend Salver (for most prize points for WIs with under 40 members) by one point!

Well done to all members who entered. The standard of entries was extremely high in all the competition classes in the show.

Our monthly members' meeting was held on Tuesday, September 3 in Penlllyn Village Hall. Members and visitor were welcomed to the meeting by president, Novello Peters, who introduced the speaker, Audrey Griffiths, who gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Most Peculiar People'.

She shared with us her experiences as a

PENLLYN & DISTRICT WI NEWS

tour guide with American tourists visiting Wales. Several of her amusing anecdotes related to language misunderstandings, giving credence to the saying that Britain and America are "...two nations divided by a common language..."!

She also told us of her pleasure in helping heritage tourists to see where their forebears lived and worked.

After teas, coffees, cake and biscuits were served, and members had the chance to buy from the bookstall and exchange holiday news with friends, they were informed of forthcoming local and Federation events.

A reminder was given for our 'Treasure Hunt' around Waitrose, Cowbridge, on Tuesday, September 10. We will have a meal afterwards in The Bear Hotel.

Our craft evenings will begin again on September 18. Our focus over the coming months will be producing craft items for our

Christmas fayre in December. All suggestions will be welcomed!

Our team will be entering the Federation Quiz, at the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl, on Thursday, September 19. We wish them well!

Ten of our members are beginning rehearsals as part of the Glamorgan WI Choir in preparation for the Carol Festival in St David's Hall in December.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 1, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall and our speaker will be Mike Wilcock, talking about a 'Journey by airship across the Vale'.

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penlllyn Village Hall. For further information, contact Novello on 01656 674191 or Marjorie on 01656 647115.

MN

Bridgend PACT meeting

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON AND MERTHYR MAWR PACT public meeting will be held at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston today at 7pm.

MORFA WILD-MILL PACT public meeting will be held at the Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill, today at 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT public meeting will be held at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday, September 18 at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD AND PENDRE PACT public meeting will be held at Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on Monday, September 23 at 6.30pm.

BRACKLA PACT public meeting will be held at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, on Thursday, September 26 at 6.30pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) PACT public meeting will be held at RAOB Club, Pencoe on Thursday, September 26 at 7pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD AND BRYNHFRYD PACT public meeting will be held at Westward Community Centre on Monday, September 30 at 5.30pm.

Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen THE £34m

'Gateway to the Valleys' comprehensive school, which has welcomed pupils for the first time this week, has a kitchen fitted out with some of the most high-tech cooking equipment around.

The staff in the kitchens will not only be cooking high quality meals to the 1,500 pupils at the school, but will also be providing 200 meals to the delivery service for the meals on wheels, and 50 meals to the Minerva Day Centre.

Members of the general public are also welcome to enjoy a meal and refreshments in the community café which is in the front of the school building by the main entrance.

Initially, the café will be open during term time, Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm.

There will also be a 'Eat Well, Move Well, Live Well' course in the college, which will guide participants on nutritious meals, give advice on the types of leisure activities available in Wales, and how living a healthy lifestyle can help improve one's life. The course begins on September 26 from 1pm-3pm.

Bridgend area heritage

MEMBERS of the St John's Trust will be opening the doors to the oldest habitable building in Bridgend on September 21-22.

This is the 16th Century St John's house on Newcastle Hill.

On Saturday, September 14, from 12pm to 4pm, the public will also have the opportunity of studying the architecture of St David's Church in Betws, and will be able to inspect the registers for weddings and funerals, which will be on display with a member of the church available to give advice and issue guide books.

Refreshments will be available at a small charge.

There is also a special heritage 'Calon Lan' walk around Blaengarw on September 14, dedicated to the popular hymn's creator Daniel James,

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



who lived and worked in the mining community.

Bridgend Carers' Centre

FIRST, I would like to draw the reader's attention to the telephone number below which was incorrect in previous editions of The GEM, and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The centre is a charity which has set up to provide support and information to carers, located at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (01656 658479) and is a welcoming venue for all.

On Wednesday, September 18, a representative of Howell's solicitors will be available to give free advice in the centre from 10am-12pm. Please phone the above number to make an appointment.

The community café will be open between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. There will be also staff available from Carers Wales available to advise carers on any problems they may have.

In the evening, there is a new facility to carers in Coity Clinic from 6pm-8pm, when the Bridgend Carers' Centre will be holding a drop-in session where a member of the staff will be available to talk in a private room.

On Thursday, September 19, there will be a training and employment fayre at the centre with a number of organisations who will give ideas on what to study, and what financial support is available.

There will be talk by the Open University, information from the library service, BAVO, adult education, coastal and Job Centre Plus. The event begins at 10am and finishes at 2pm, with lunch included. Please phone the above number to reserve a place.

The outreach group will be at Maesteg town council offices on Thursday, September 19 to offer assistance and advice to carers from 10am-12pm.

Visually impaired MEMBERS of the public who are visually impaired and enjoy listening to audiobooks may be interested in a new service being pro-

vided by Booklink, the mobile library service.

It delivers to your home and you will be able to borrow a 'boombox' mp3 speaker system. Using USB memory sticks, the system features large simple-to-use controls so you can enjoy listening to audiobooks, music and talking newspapers.

The service is available 24-hours a day, and makes waiting lists a thing of the past.

St Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr

THE members offer congratulations to the church's altar server, David Bowen who did extremely well in his GCSE examinations. David achieved three As in history, geography and religious studies. He also received Bs in English, mathematics, science, design technology and Welsh.

David has also been accepted as a cadet in the Royal Naval Reserve as an AB2 and is currently undergoing part time training during the week, and at weekends at HMS Cambria, Barry. David's ambition is to join the Royal Navy full time, and they wish him every success in his chosen career.

Ogmore Valley male voice choir

THIS wonderful choir is the proud owner of its own concert hall; and will be holding its annual concert this year on Saturday, September 21 at 7pm.

It always raises money for a local charity which this year will be the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

The choir is pleased to announce that it has as a guest soloist, Rhidian Jenkins from Maesteg. Rhidian has been a winner of singing competitions in both the Urdd Junior Eisteddfod every year since the age of 11, and this year was a winner in the Welsh National Eisteddfod. He has also been a winner of the Bridgend 'Young singer of the Year' competition.

The concert is in Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale and has full disabled access. Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from any choir member or John on 01656 841429.

Tondu Primary School

MRS Susan Pilcher, the headteacher, would like to advise parents of young children, that the school will be holding a session on Wednesday mornings from 9.45am to 11.45am in the school's Heol Persondy building in Aberkenfig.

The session is titled 'Tondud Toddlers' and children will be able to meet others in the same age group and learn how to socialise, while the parents can chat and make friends.

The school also has a successful free breakfast club from 8.10am-9.15am in the Meadow Street building. Attendance in the Heol Persondy building is from 8.10am-9.30am.

Supervision is provided in both venues until the children go to class.

St Michael's and All Angels Church, Maesteg

THERE is an outstanding concert being held at the church this evening (Thursday) at 7pm. Music will be provided by Bridgend 'Big Band', mixed voice choir

Noteworthy, and the soloist is the well-known soprano Sally Ann Kingsbury. The compere is BBC presenter Rebecca John.

Tickets are £6 (£5 with concessions) available at the door, and all money raised goes towards the church restoration fund.

Parc Slip Nature Reserve

THERE is an opportunity for children aged up to 13 to enjoy learning about the wildlife on the reserve next Saturday, September 14 from 10am to 12noon.

It is in the visitor centre, Tondu, with members of the Welsh Wildlife Trust.

Children up to the age of eight must be accompanied by a responsible adult, and all children should wear clothing suitable for being outdoors. It is suggested that a donation of £2 is acceptable to cover overheads.

For more information telephone Rose on 01656 724100.

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bridgend-today.co.uk

Council team joins students' union at Cardiff Mardi Gras



Members of Bridgend county borough council's equalities team, and Bridgend College Students' Union, with visitors at Cardiff-Wales LGBT Mardi Gras.

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) and Bridgend College supported lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people living in the county borough by attending the Cardiff-Wales LGBT Mardi Gras. The council's equalities and engagement team and Bridgend College Students' Union LGBT committee, shared an information stand to spread

the word about how they are working to achieve equality for LGBT service users, council workers, students and residents in the wider community. The president of Bridgend College Student's Union and Brackla ward member, Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "Attending the Mardi Gras was a really positive step for both the college and the council, because it uncovered new ways we can build upon the work we are already doing to promote equality

for LGBT locally. "We're pleased that the council feels as strongly about supporting LGBT residents as we do, and we're excited to continue working together with the equalities and engagement team to educate people about LGBT issues and prevent LGBT hate crime from occurring." BCBC cabinet member for resources, Coun Mike Gregory, said: "There is still a lot of fear and prejudice in relation to

LGBT issues across Wales, and people are suffering discrimination, harassment and victimisation because of their gender or sexuality every day. "Discrimination in any form is unacceptable and has no place in Bridgend county borough, which is why we will continue working hard with our partners to encourage a mutual respect between all our residents." Together with Bridgend College

Student's Union, the council's equalities and engagement team is now planning to attend the 'Swansea Sparkle' transgender awareness event on Saturday November 16. To find out more about how the council is promoting equality in Bridgend county borough, contact Paul Williams, equalities and engagement officer, on 01656 643606, or email paul.williams2@bridgend.gov.uk.

GUEST COLUMN Will we regret Commons' vote on Syria?

RECENTLY, I faced one of the most difficult responsibilities of being an MP.

I faced a parliamentary vote on whether the UK should, in principle, take a stand against Syria.

The Syria debate has rightly dominated the news. Chemical weapons have been used against civilians, none of whom held arms. It has been concluded that no-one, other than the Syrian government, had the capacity to conduct such an attack.

However, with memories of Iraq and Afghanistan, I was more than reluctant to see our country involved in military conflict. The political situation in Syria is exceptionally complicated.

There is no one opponent to the Assad regime. There are several factions, all with their own interests. There is a risk that destabilising one faction, would strengthen another that may prove to be equally horrific against civilians.

Yet, the obvious suffering of innocent children and civilians seen on television screens is heart-breaking. The use of chemical weapons breaks the most basic of international laws. Even Hitler didn't resort to this level of attack in the battlefield.

As a result of these contradictions, I found the vote extremely difficult to judge. Instinctively, I was opposed to military action. I had to reconcile the suffering caused to UK families affected by recent conflicts against the breach of international law and suffering their civilians in Syria.

My answer was to urge the Prime Minister to develop a consensus; to develop a motion that the whole of Parliament (all parties) could unite behind.

The motion last week was very cautious. It was specific in demanding a further vote before any action could take place. It called for a strong humanitarian response, and said that any action must be legal, proportionate and focused on saving lives.

This would have required a further vote in the House of



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

Commons before any military action, and would be achieved by preventing and deterring further use of Syria's chemical weapons.

It called for a United Nations process to be followed and its purpose related solely to alleviate humanitarian suffering.

This is what I voted for. Sadly, Ed Miliband didn't agree and tabled his own amendment that included all the factors of the government's motion. The politics got in the way and meant that he and his Party voted against the Government's motion.

It is important to underline that the Opposition's motion also left the door open for possible military action. Some believe that their motion blocked it. This was not the case.

As a result, the Government's motion fell. The Prime Minister accepted the decision of Parliament.

Worryingly, we (and most importantly civilians in Syria) face the risk of further action in the knowledge that the UK will not be able to take direct action to help.

Former Lib Dem leader Paddy Ashdown, hardly aggressive in any sense, fears this as much as I do.

I hope we won't regret the way this debate has evolved.

Advertising feature

Osteoporosis 'The Silent Disease'

OSTEOPOROSIS affects one in three women over the age of 50 and 'fracture following trauma' is often the only indication of an underlying problem.

This is why it is often called 'the silent disease'. Of those who suffer a hip fracture, three in 10 will die as a result.

Risk factors include early menopause, family history, steroid-based medications, digestive illnesses, diet and lifestyle factors and low body mass.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to prevent the development of the disease, such as weight-bearing exercise and eating calcium-rich foods.

A simple ultrasound scan can give a good indication of risk of osteoporosis and future fracture.

Osteoporosis fracture risk scans

Osteoporosis is common in post-menopausal women and fractures can cause pain, disability and loss of independence. 3 out of 10 hip fractures prove fatal.

Osteoporosis can be prevented if weak bones are detected early enough but scans for assessing risk of future osteoporotic fracture are not always readily available.

However, you can now have a non-invasive scan for £22.
Wednesday 18th September
Bridgend Civic Centre
Thursday 19th September
Barry Town Council Offices
For information and appointments call:
Healthcare Screening 0845 224 6784

Porthcawl to go for surfing world record

ON Saturday, September 14, Porthcawl should break the world record for the most people surfing one wave at the same time.

The event is being managed and coordinated by Nigel Jones, director of Adventures Activities, and Huw Murray of Porthcawl Surf School.

Nigel Jones, said: "We need to have more than 120 people, but already 300 have signed up via Facebook and we have received over 100 official entries. All we need is the perfect wave of about three feet to

one metre."

"We're getting entries from as far away as Cornwall and the north of England and emails of support from all over the world."

STOP PRESS

As The GEM went to press, it was announced that the event has been postponed because of a poor weather forecast.

There will be a practice event for anyone interested, at 2pm on Coney Beach.

A new date will be announced in due course, but it is likely to be in the next eight weeks.

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St David's School learns about the Victorians



RECENTLY, junior children and teachers at St. David's Church in Wales Primary School, Colwinston, dressed up in Victorian costumes to celebrate the start of their autumn term topic.

There were many chimney sweeps, maids, street

children, not to mention a few Queen Victorias! Throughout the day, a variety of activities were undertaken including handwriting practice, drama and role-play and Victorian yard games.

A great day was had by all!

LOUISE ROSSER

Quiz league posers

Here are this week's questions:

1. Which Persian name meaning 'Sign of God' is given especially in Iran to high ranking clerics among Shi-ite Muslims?
2. In terms of area, which is the UK largest National Park?
3. Which team who do not play official tests made the semi-finals of the 2003 cricket World Cup?
4. In terms of value, what, after oil, is the largest internationally traded commodity?

A Rudge (for Quiz League)

Answers:
1. Ayatollah.
2. Cadiz/Gorms.
3. Kenya.
4. Coffee.

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Mystery run and the Goddess of Corn...

SEPTEMBER is the ninth month of the Gregorian calendar and comes from the Roman word Septem, meaning seven, as it was the seventh month of the Julian calendar.

People believed that Septem was protected by the Roman god Vulcan, and kept them from the perils of fire, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

The Anglo-Saxons called this month 'gest monarh', meaning barley month as it was the time of the year that they could make their favourite drink, barley brew, through the reaping of the crops. September was also known as 'haefest monarh', (the month of the harvest).

The Gregorian calendar, named after Pope Gregory XIII, was adopted in 1582, although it was not accepted by Britain until 1753.

Earlier, nothing happened between September 3-13 because these days were lost during the transition, and it was calculated that the earth's rotation around the sun had fallen

en out of line with the traditional seasons.

People paraded the streets chanting 'Give us back our 11 days'. Unfortunately, they were lost forever, never to be given back.

Another custom relating to September was the calling of the mare, which was a traditional competition between farmers and their neighbours.

The gathering of the last sheaf was used to make the peculiar shape of a mare, which was thrown to the neighbour.

The last farmer to complete this bizarre task had to display the mare beside the barn, to let people know that he was the slowest farmer of the year. He would be ridiculed for the duration of the coming months.

Corn dollies were also made as symbols to the goddess of the corn; a tradition dating back hundreds of years.

The goddess was believed to live within the growing corn, and would die when harvested. The last cluster was used to make a corn dolly to keep her spirit alive.

Michaelmas Day is traditionally the last day of the harvest, and the beginning of the winter

curfew. It falls on the 29th when church bells would ring out at 9 o'clock in ancient times, one strike for each day of the past year.

This task would carry forward each night until Shrove Tuesday. The oldest curfew dates back to 1380.

Michaelmas is the Patron Saint of the sea, maritime, land, ships, boatmen, horses and horsemen, and is the representative of the angel who threw Lucifer (the devil) down from heaven for his evil ways.

This day was also classed as goose day, as a feast of good luck. Elizabeth I was consuming goose when she received news that the Spanish Armada had been defeated and she declared a feast was a celebration for all folk throughout the land.

Good luck would fall upon those who ate this meat on Michaelmas Day.

A prediction of the cooking of the goose revealed that if the bones were brown after roasting, the winter would be mild – but if white or blue winter months would be cold and frosty.

A Michaelmas saying was chanted on the

morning of the feast day and filled people with hope for luck during the year ahead: 'Eat goose on Michaelmas Day, shan't money lack or debts to pay'.

A superstitious belief that the devil stamps or spits upon bramble bushes on this day was popular during an bygone era, and blackberries were forbidden to be picked until September 30.

This was because he is said to have fallen from heaven, landing within the bramble bush. He cursed the fruit by raging his fiery breath upon the bush, stamping and spitting upon it in temper.

This curse of doom is supposedly renewed annually, and bad luck will befall anyone who defies it.

During the Victorian era, trees planted on harvest day would grow well and bloom; whereas Celtic belief stated that a ring found in Michaelmas pie would predict marriage for the recipient in the coming year.

September 4 was Holy Rood Day when children were pardoned from school or work to gather nuts, a custom which died out throughout the journey of time.

September has many memorable occasions attached to it, including the Great Fire of London which raged for four days in 1666 from September 2-6; on September 2, 1753 Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar; Francis Drake returned to Plymouth on the Golden Hind on the 26th in 1580; and Admiral Nelson was born on September 29, 1758.

Spooky tales seem to engulf the month of September, with many tales of ghostly beings lurking in the background.

The old lanes which wind from Llanharly to Aberthyn are no stranger to the alarming sight of a drifting nun.

She appears at dusk throughout the middle part of the month, floating down the lane before mysteriously disappearing into oblivion behind the cascading trees and hedgerow.

Witnesses to this spectacle in these tree-tunnelled lanes are often left bewildered as this spooky image has no relevance to today's society.

Where could this nun have come from, and why does she want to linger in a place that would be unrecognisable to her from a long forgotten era?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.co.uk

Maesteg woman picks up top Lottery award



Sarah picks up her award and is joined by some very excitable celebrities.

A MAESTEG woman who helps to run the UK's favourite Lottery-funded health project collected a National Lottery Award at a glittering awards ceremony broadcast on BBC One this week.

Sarah Griffiths-Little is a Trustee of The Ichthyosis Support Group (ISG) and campaigned hard for them to win the award. Sarah has ichthyosis, which is a potentially fatal condition affecting around one in 300,000 people.

The ISG received almost 5,000 public votes in this year's National Lottery Awards, the annual search for the UK's favourite Lottery-funded good causes.

Sarah and the charity's supporters were seen receiving the National Lottery Award by millions of viewers last night in the National Lottery Stars 2013 programme.

The ISG team had travelled to London for the bash at the world-

famous Pinewood Studios, home of James Bond and Superman.

They mingled with the likes of Rod Stewart, Duncan Bannatyne and Jason Donovan during the ceremony hosted by TV star John Barrowman.

A short film of a surprise visit to an ISG event by Strictly Come Dancing's Len Goodman was shown. The National Lottery Awards recognise and reward the inspirational impact of National Lottery funded projects across all sections of society.

'OVERWHELMING'
National Lottery players raise more than £35 million for good causes throughout the UK every week.

Sarah said: "On behalf of the Ichthyosis Support Group I'd like to pass on huge thanks to everyone who voted for us and to the National Lottery for supporting us."

"It was overwhelming and exciting to learn we had won because ichthyosis is an extremely

distressing condition for both the sufferer and their families, and has a huge impact on people's lives."

"By raising awareness the ISG hopes it will help to educate and encourage more research into this rare skin condition."

The Ichthyosis Support Group (ISG) is the only registered charity in the UK supporting individuals and families affected by all forms of ichthyosis, a rare genetic condition affecting our largest organ, the skin.

Sufferers have to follow a rigorous daily routine, spending hours treating their skin by applying thick, greasy creams to the whole of their body several times a day to prevent infections.

They also have to apply thick, greasy creams to prevent dryness and cracking which, if left untreated, can become so severe that it breaks the bones of tiny fingers and toes. Ichthyosis can also be fatal for babies.

Llangan pupils' hard work benefits school



Topstak donated money to help develop the school environment.

IN September 2012, Llangan Primary School pupils elected their school council for the year, comprising two pupils from each class to represent all 124 children in school.

What a choice they made! This year's council of 14 pupils has worked tirelessly all year to improve indoor and outdoor areas of the school.

Not only has the school council worked inside the school, but they have been busy canvassing local businesses to help make a difference to Llangan by donating materials and money.

J Davey in Pencoed have kindly delivered sand and gravel, while companies such as Topstak have donated a significant sum of money to help develop the school environment.

Topstak's sales manager took the time to visit the school in July and was enthusiastically shown the new library, together with the outdoor stage.

This has been a project undertaken by Mr Esplin and his fellow dads, who have given up weekends to dig, saw, paint and sweat in exchange for a

bacon butty and the pride they can feel with their achievements!

School council member Rhys explained: "Without the help of such companies as Topstak, we would not be able to develop the school grounds. As a small school, we don't have much money, so we are always extremely grateful for the generous donations we receive from local businesses. They really do make a difference to us."

Council secretary Nia added: "We've been able to purchase such things as brightly-coloured beanbags that can be used inside and outside. They are great for curling up on to read a book in the library, or for sitting on outside."

The headteacher, Mr Steve Williams, remarked: "This year's school council has worked hard, listening to pupils' wishes and bringing in much-needed income for the children to choose how they would like to use it."

"The outdoor stage is a beautiful addition to our garden and I am looking forward to our first theatrical performance next year!"

SW

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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FINE TURNOUT AND IMPRESSIVE EXHIBITS AT WICK VILLAGE HORTICULTURAL SHOW

WICK Horticultural Society recently held its 45th annual vegetable and flower show.

The society's treasurer, Mr Carroll Swaine, reported: "What a wonderful summer we have had this year - warmth, blue skies and sunshine."

"The sun certainly shone for the Wick Horticultural Society Annual Show, held in Wick and Monknash Village Hall and it brought out a good public attendance."

"Our regular exhibitors came, as well as a few new ones, and more tables were needed to stage all the exhibits."

"Competition standards were excellent in all classes, and the wall-to-wall tables were filled with a fine array of vegetables, fruit, flowers and cookery 'goodies', and a variety of classes for children."

"Our raffle was also very well supported and we thank all who contributed in any way to the success of the show and we look forward to next year."

ward to your support and attendance next year.

RESULTS

Best exhibitor - Fruit - Jason James.

Best exhibitor - Vegetables - Ron Ayres.

Best exhibitor - Flowers - Tony Munt.

Best exhibitor - Collection of vegetables - Allan Davies.

Best exhibitor - Floral arrangement - Louise Edwards.

Best exhibitor - Home baking - Elaine Beer.

Best show exhibit - Louise Edwards.

Best exhibitor - children's section - Olivia Ball.

Section 1 - Vegetables (own grown).

Class, followed by first, second and third.

Five potatoes - J Gwilliam; David Davies; D Johnston.

Heaviest potato - David Davies.

Three beetroots - Simon John; Robert Hubbard; Robbie Norris.

Three carrots - Simon John; David Davies; D Johnston.

Three onions (more than 8oz) - Allan Davies; Phil Williams; Phil Williams.

Three onions (less than 8oz) - Phil Williams; Phil Williams; Robert Hubbard.

Heaviest onion - Allan Davies.

Three leeks - Allan Davies; Allan Davies; Simon John.

Five shallots (large) - Simon John; David Davies; Mervyn Lines.

Five shallots (small) - M.B Lines; David Davies; D Johnston.

Three parsnips - David Davies; J Gwilliam; David

Davies. Cabbage with 2" stem - David Davies.

Best marrow - Tony Munt; Simon John; Tony Munt.

Five pods of peas - Robert Hubbard; Robbie Norris; Phil Williams.

Six runner beans - David Davies; Phil Williams; Phil Williams.

Longest runner bean - Robert Hubbard; David Davies; Phil Williams.

Single item of any other vegetable - Robbie Norris; J Gwilliam; Simon John.

Five tomatoes on plate - Ron Ayres; Allan Davies; Simon John.

Truss of cherry-type tomatoes - Louise Edwards; Winnie Davies; Ron Ayres.

Best cucumber - Mervyn Lines; Mervyn Lines; Robbie Norris.

Two lettuces - David Davies.

Mini collection of vegetables - Allan Davies; Simon John; D Johnston.

Collection of salad vegetables - Simon John.

Unusual shaped fruit/veg - Jenny George; Simon John; S Johnston.

Section 2 - Fruit (own garden)

Five apples (cooking) - Jason James; Jason James; Jason James.

Dish of stoned fruit - Phil Davies; Robert Hubbard; Allan Davies.

Five apples (dessert) - Margaret Wallis; Phil Davies; Mary Morgan.

Any other fruit - CM Jones; CM Jones; Phil Davies.

Section 3 - Flowers (own grown)

Bowl of roses - Doreen Stych; Tony Munt.

Three gladioli - Tony Munt; Doreen Stych; Ron Ayres.

Three dahlias (Dec or Cactus) - Robert Hubbard; Tony Munt.

Three pom-pom or ball dahlias - Roger Thomas; Robert Hubbard.

Vase of mixed flowers - Tony Munt; Jenny George; Louise Edwards.

Vase of sweet peas - Allan Davies; Margaret Wallis; Robert Hubbard.

Vase of any one variety - Tony Munt; Noelle Fee; CM Jones.

Pot plant (flowering) up to 5" dia pot - Ron Ayres; Carol Brown; Louise Edwards.

Pot plant (foliage) over 5" dia pot - Edna Black-Gerrard; Tony Munt; Ron Ayres.

Pot plant (flowering) up to 5" dia pot - Sue Evans; Ron Ayres; Carol Forty.

Pot plant (foliage) over 5" dia pot - Noelle Fee; Tony Munt; Tony Munt.

Six kinds of culinary herbs - CM Jones; Louise Edwards.

Succulents/cacti - Jenny George; Louise Edwards; Carol Brown.

Section 4 - flower arrangements

Floral frontal arrangement - Louise Edwards; Jenny George; Lavinia Evan.

Table decoration 10" width max - Sue Evans; Louise Edwards; Lavinia Evan.

Decorative buttonhole - Louise Edwards; Margaret Wallis; Louise Edwards.

Arrangement of shades of

green foliage - Louise Edwards; Sue Evans; L Richards.

A rose head floating in a wine glass - CM Jones; Louise Edwards; Tony Munt.

Exhibit entitled 'Last of the Summer Wine' - Jenny George; Louise Edwards; Lavinia Evan.

Section 5 - home baking and preserves

Bara Brith - Winnie Davies; Elaine Beer; L Richards.

Five Welsh Cakes - Mary Morgan; Sue Evans; Carol Forty; Doreen Stych.

Victoria sandwich - Elaine Beer; Janet Thomas; Doreen Stych.

Home-made shortbread - Sue Evans; Carol Brown; Julie Ball.

Five plain white scones - L Richards; Carol Forty; Margaret Wallis.

Five muffins - L Richards; L Richards; Morwenna Brown.

Apple tart - Carol Brown; Sarah McGinn; Doreen Stych.

Savoury flan or quiche - Margaret Wallis; Carol Forty; Julie Ball.

2lb oven baked loaf of bread

Julie Gwilliam

Jar of jam - Mary Morgan; Ruth Johnston; Julie Gwilliam.

Jar of jelly - Sarah McGinn.

Jar of marmalade - Barbara Savidge; Winnie Davies; Winnie Davies.

Jar of savoury preserve - Ruth Johnston; L Richards; Robbie Norris.

Children's section

Floral decoration in egg cup - Morwenna Brown; Natasha Forty; Olivia Ball.

Decorate three fairy cakes - Natasha Forty; Natasha Forty; Natasha Forty.

Miniature garden in a seed tray - Olivia Ball; Natasha Forty; Natasha Forty.

Animal made from one or more vegetables - Olivia Ball; Anna Evans; Morwenna Brown.

Draw, name and colour three wild flowers - Olivia Ball; Natasha Forty.

Collage of leaves and seeds - Olivia Ball; Natasha Forty.

Decorate a flat pebble - Olivia Ball; Natasha Forty; Morwenna Brown.

Harvest Festival at Zoar Church

ZOAR Presbyterian church, near the Aubrey Arms, is holding a Harvest Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, September 25, at 7pm.

The guest preacher is Prof

John Gwynfor Jones.

Light refreshments will follow. The collection will go to the Vale Food Bank (Trussell Trust).

Everybody is welcome. For further information, telephone

01446 781309.

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ELVIS FESTIVAL INSPIRES LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER



ABOVE: Photographer Juliet Eden with Coun Lyn Morgan, outside the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

PORHCRAWL'S Elvis Festival is the inspiration behind a new exhibition that opens next week in the town.

Local photographer Juliet Eden will be exhibiting her 'Streets of Eden' collection at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl, featuring images of street performers and revellers at festivals around Wales, including the Elvis Festival.

Running from Tuesday, September 17, to Sunday, November 10, the exhibition coincides with this year's Elvis Festival (September 27-29).

Now in its 10th year, it is expected to attract more than 30,000 fans, with more than 100 different tribute acts paying homage to 'The King'.

Coun Lyn Morgan, the BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "People in Porthcawl can't help falling in love with all things Elvis, so I'm sure Juliet's exhibition is going to be a hit with both local residents and festival visitors."

"The festival has continued to grow in popularity during the past 10 years, which is testament to the hospitality of businesses and residents in Porthcawl."

With support from BCBC's arts and community development team, Juliet secured Arts Council of Wales funding for the 'Streets of Eden' exhibition.

A number of arts workshops are also being arranged in support of the event.

Coun Morgan added: "It's great that the council can support artists like Juliet to get funding to pursue projects such as this."

"These arts projects provide a solid platform from which we can introduce the county borough's budding artists to different types of art."

Following its stay at the Grand Pavilion, the exhibition will tour a range of venues across south Wales including Maesteg Town Hall, the Senedd and Swansea Grand Theatre.

To find out more about the exhibition, email Juliet Eden at photos@juli.eden.com or visit www.julieteden.com.

For more information on how BCBC's arts and community development team can support you, contact Guy O'Donnell, arts development officer on 01656 642727 or email guy.odonnell@bridgend.gov.uk.

Emma-Louise's hair gift to help young cancer victims

WHEN Emma-Louise Maher heard about a charity that provides wigs for children who have suffered hair loss due to cancer treatments or other illnesses, she decided that it was time to embark on a fundraising effort that is a cut above the rest.



Charity 'hair' Emma-Louise.

So, on Saturday, September 14, Emma will be having a bit more than her usual trim when she visits the hairdressers and will instead have all of her long red locks cut off for charity.

Emma, who works for Bridgend County Borough Council's community safety department, said: "My hair has always been long, but it has now grown to the point where I thought I could make good use of it and have my locks made into a wig for a little boy or girl who needs it more than me."

She will be donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust and hopes to raise more than the £350 that it usually costs the charity to have hair manufactured into wigs.

Emma added: "My gran had cancer and lost her hair, which resulted in her having a wig. Losing your hair must be really hard to deal with, on top of everything else that people with cancer have to overcome, so I'd love to help in some way."

"Ideally, I'd like to reach my fundraising target and the recipient will be able to have straight or curly hair, just like me. It took me a long time to appreciate my hair and value it, and I will be really pleased to populate the world with another red head!"

You can support Emma's fundraising efforts by going online at www.justgiving.com/Emma-Louise-Maher.

Welsh organ donation law receives Royal approval

A LANDMARK Welsh law which will change the system of organ donation in Wales has been granted Royal Assent by Her Majesty the Queen.

Wales will become the first nation in the UK to introduce a soft opt-out system of organ donation when the new law is brought fully into effect on December 1, 2015.

A soft opt-out system of organ donation means unless a person makes a decision to be a donor (opts in) or not to be a donor (opts out), their consent to donation will be deemed to have been given.

At any one time there are about 220 Welsh residents on the active waiting list for a transplant. Last year,

around one person a week died in Wales while waiting for an organ donation.

The First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones said: "The Human Transplantation (Wales) Act 2013 is arguably the most significant piece of legislation passed by the National Assembly for Wales since it acquired full law-making powers in 2011."

"Many people will wait years for a transplant but sadly, many die waiting on the list. The shortage of human organs continues to cause otherwise preventable deaths and suffering."

"This law will not only help reduce the waiting list, but will also help save lives, by reducing the number of people who needlessly die waiting for an organ transplant."

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'Inspirational' gym instructor retires after 17 years in Cowbridge

USERS of gym instructor in Cowbridge, Aranka gathered at The Bear Hotel on Thursday, September 5 to salute Aranka Pratt on her retirement.

A distinguished athlete, Aranka represented Hungary in the national athletics team in her younger days. Since arriving in the Vale, Aranka has become a well-known competitor in the world of distance running, and has completed numerous marathons, half marathons, 10km runs and hill races.

Users and friends joined in wishing Aranka a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Speaking on behalf of gym users, Steven Thomas thanked Aranka for her encouragement of good health in mind, body and spirit.

He noted that the most common words used in the 'Happy Retirement' card signed by the users were: "unique", "inspirational" and "irreplaceable".



Steven Thomas with Aranka Pratt.

Bat expedition at nature reserve

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is planning a guided bat walk around the Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve, south of Llantwit Major.

Tonight (Thursday, Sept 12) experts from the trust will be talking about bat ecology and conservation, and using bat detectors to pick up on activity in the grassland and woodland habitats in and around Cwm Colhuw.

They will also be

keeping an eye out for other nocturnal wildlife on the reserve.

Meet at 8pm in the beach car park; all ages are welcome but a torch and sturdy footwear are essential as the walk will be finishing after dark.

Warm clothing and insect repellent is recommended. Bad weather may cause the cancellation of the event at short notice so check www.welshwildlife.org/vents/ for more information.

Diabetes group

THE Vale Diabetes UK Voluntary Group's next meeting is on Tuesday, September 17 at the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, from 7.30pm - 9pm.

The speaker is Dr Aled Rees on 'diabetes and cardiovascular disease'. All are welcome!

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Welsh language body's concerns over the future

MENTER Caerdydd has published a report following a review of the social use of the Welsh language in the Vale.

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

Vale do not use the Welsh language at all outside school hours.

- 82.1 per cent of children receiving Welsh medium education in the Vale do not attend any Welsh medium clubs or activities outside of school hours.

- 62.1 per cent of children receiving Welsh medium education in the Vale do attend English medium clubs or activities outside of school hours.

- 88.7 per cent of respondents wish to see an increase in the Welsh language provision on offer in the Vale.

- 91.7 per cent would like to see more Welsh language activities for families in the Vale.

- 86.6 per cent would like to see more Welsh

language provision for adults in the Vale.

- 31.7 per cent of respondents, who did not receive Welsh medium education, no longer use any of their Welsh language skills.

Sian Lewis, Menter Caerdydd's chief executive, said: "It is crucial that children, young people and adults have the opportunity to use the Welsh language on a social level in their communities, so that the language thrives."

"Our aim now is to work with local establishments and the Vale Council to ensure that there is an improvement in the Welsh language provisions on offer."

A copy of the report can be found on Menter Caerdydd's website: www.mentercaerdydd.org/en/page/the-vale

New year begins for the Young Farmers

AS a new club year begins for Maendy YFC, prospective new members together with current and past members are invited to Cowbridge RFC on Tuesday, September 17, commencing at 7pm for an evening of games and ice breaker challenges.

During the evening you will be able to meet new people, learn what YFC has to offer and find about club trips,

competitions and socials for the year ahead – one of those being our annual dinner and dance which is fast approaching on Saturday, September 28 and is being held at Swalec Stadium, Cardiff.

Tickets are £25 and are available from the club chairman.

If you are aged between 10 and 26 then come along to meet everyone and have a fun night out.

Maendy Young Farmers Club is a vibrant and enthusiastic club with a friendly and

welcoming atmosphere.

It is a club run by the members for the members, this way we feel everybody is a part of club life and the younger members can rely on the older ones for experience and guidance. And in case you were wondering – you don't have to be a farmer to be in Young Farmers!

Maendy YFC recently held its Annual General Meeting where the following appointments were made for new club officers for the forthcoming club year 2013/14.

Mr Richard Western remains as president, Mr Tom Rees (Bryn Farm) was re-elected as chairman with Miss Heather Jarvis (Gelli Goll Farm) re-elected as vice chairman. General secretary is once again Miss Kate Thomas (Duffryn Bach Farm); the finances of the club are the responsibility of Ieuan Rosser (Windmill Farm) as treasurer, whilst Miss Louise Evans (Tyla Morris Farm) will keep check of the meetings as minute secretary.

If you would like any further information, contact club chairman Tom Rees, by e-mail maendy.yfc@gmail.com or telephone 07738 913294.

Did you know you can follow The GEM on Twitter? @gem_news

Heather March

'Pride in our Heritage: Small Grants Scheme'

THE 'Pride in our Heritage: Small Grants Scheme' has been set up to help local communities throughout the rural Vale celebrate their local heritage.

The focus of the scheme is to support groups, individuals and businesses to deliver activities, events or other small projects which celebrate, conserve or promote the cultural, built or natural heritage of the rural Vale.

A limited number of grants of up to £2,000 are available until September 2014 or until funding is fully allocated.

A spokesman explained: "Heritage includes many different things that we value and want to pass on to future generations, for example: historic buildings and streets; natural and designed landscapes and gardens; wildlife, including special habitats and species; cultural traditions of stories, festivals, craft, music and people's memories and experiences."

Examples of some of the types of project

which could be eligible for support under this grant scheme are events, festivals, small exhibitions or other activities which celebrate the heritage of the rural Vale, restoration of historic features, and community projects.

Norman Jenkins, chair of Creative Rural Communities said: "The Pride In Our Heritage Small Grant Scheme is an exciting project which raises awareness of and celebrates heritage at a truly local level. We are delighted to be able to offer this funding and look forward to supporting a range of projects from revival of traditional events to development of new activities that reflect the rural Vale's unique heritage."

Creative Rural Communities is a regeneration and economic development initiative led by the Vale Council.

For further information contact Branwen Dickson or Helen Blackmore on 01446 775388; or by email: bdickson@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or hblackmore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk Senior Rural.

Building society looks to back local charities

MEMBERS of the public in Cowbridge are being urged to help Yorkshire Building Society's charitable foundation find charities and good causes in their community to receive a share of £100,000.

On Monday September 16, the Cowbridge branch of Yorkshire will launch 'Make a Difference Week' – a week-long campaign where customers of the branch and members of the public can nominate a charity they would like to see receive support.

All charities nominated will then be considered to receive a £100 share of the £100,000 the Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation is looking to donate.

Jonathan Tucker, manager of the Cowbridge branch said: "Make A Difference Week is a chance for the people of our town to tell us exactly which charities mean the most to them that they would like to see support. This is our opportunity to help some of the smaller good causes that can often be overlooked for donations."

"We've made it as simple as possible for people to tell us about

their favourite charity – all they have to do is call into the branch and fill in a form and within a few weeks their charity could get a cheque for £100."

The £100,000 is largely made up of donations the society receives through its 'Small Change Big Difference' scheme. Members of the society can choose to donate pennies from the interest they receive on their accounts to the Foundation. All donations received through the scheme are then donated out to UK-based charities.

Dog owner should cleanup his/her act

READER'S LETTER

WOULD the inconsiderate dog owner who dumps their dog excrement at the end of the car park for Coopers Lane please stop.

This has been going on for some weeks and as there is a bin in the nearby field for dog bags, I cannot see why he/she continues to do this. Utter laziness, I presume.

One week, the excre-

Sue's Run in memory of brave Madeleine

ON Sunday, September 15, Sue Gregory-Phillips from Welsh St Donats is running the Bupa Great North Run for Starlight Children's Foundation – a national charity that grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children and provides entertainment in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

Sue is running in memory of her step-daughter Madeleine, known as Mud, who sadly died on May 6 2012 at the age of just 23. Mud was diagnosed with an arterio-venous malformation (AVM) just before her 15th birthday in 2003.

Over the next eight years she became quadriplegic. Mud was a Starlight wish child and in August 2004 she was granted her wish to attend Reading Festival with a group of her close friends. Sue describes Mud as "an inspiration to everyone around her. A truly special person who will be in our hearts forever."

To help Sue raise as much as possible for children, go online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SueGregoryPhillips> or contact Starlight directly at www.starlight.org.uk.



Sue (just before the Bath 10K).

Public meeting on bus services in Vale

ALUN Cairns, the local MP, is holding a meeting for local residents to question bus operators following changes and cuts to routes across Barry and the rural Vale.

The meeting will take place at 10am tomorrow Friday, September 13, at the Church Hall, New Jerusalem Church, Tynydd Road, Barry.

Mr Cairns said that he has organised the meeting after receiving scores of complaints from local residents.

Mr Cairns explained: "I am deeply concerned that since earlier this year I have been inundated by complaints from constituents concerned by the widespread cuts to bus services across the Vale, from Barry to Peterston Super Ely and Llantwit Major."

"There are many examples of the disruption this has caused – elderly residents unable to get to hospital appointments; others have reported that they are unable to get to work and have to consider leaving work

as it is not financially viable for them to pay taxis or buy a car, and children not able to attend their chosen schools."

"I had met earlier in the year with local bus contractors and at that time called on the local authority to prioritise their budgets to help support the bus services following the cut to the bus operating

grant provided by the Welsh Government, which subsidises the routes."

"I have organised this meeting on Friday as an opportunity for bus operators to discuss the situation and their position in the matter. I would welcome any resident who has concerns to come along to the meeting".

Harvest Festival weekend at the Amelia Trust

THE Amelia Trust's Harvest Festival fundraising weekend takes place this September 14 and 15. The times are Saturday 11am-5pm, and Sunday 12 noon to 4pm.

A spokeswoman said: "There will be an open weekend of activities for the children, our largest ever variety of craft

stalls, food yard, live music and other entertainments."

"This is our main fundraising event for the year and a chance to celebrate and share our successes, culminating in our harvest service at 3pm on Sunday."

Entrance is free, but all donations are welcome. For further details, please contact the farm office on 01446 782030.

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Sunday 15th - 11am to 3pm



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Hunt's fun ride proves popular

GLAMORGAN Hunt Fun Ride proved another very popular day, held recently in Llandow over beautiful countryside.

This relaxed event is designed to provide something for all riders to enjoy. There are optional jumps of different heights and difficulty and long stretches of

tracks and grassland to walk, trot or canter.

The organizers aim to provide a fun day for children, novices or riders with inexperienced horses or ponies, as well as those who want a quiet hack or to get their horses fit.

People enjoyed the excellent burgers at the finish.

Merchant Navy seafarers of Barry...

TOGETHER with the other south Wales ports, Barry was to play a vital role in the Second World War and its proportion of fatalities per head of population in comparison to other similar sized ports would become the highest in Britain.

The year 2013 has officially been named the 'Year of the Convoys'.

Billy McGee, archivist for the Merchant Navy Association, said: "Although the true figure of casualties lost from British and Commonwealth Merchant ships may never be fully known, the figures that follow will be as close as any that will be found to date."

Tower Hill Memorial 23,753; Buried Ashore 2,594; Canadian 1,554 (Halifax and Tower Hill Memorial); Bombay/Chittagong Memorial 6,048; Hong Kong War Memorial 1,400; Liverpool Naval Memorial 1,400 (Merchant seamen who served on RN vessels under the T124T and T124X Agreements); Australian War

Memorial 359; Royal Navy DEMS gunners 3,000; DEMS Maritime Regiment 1,222; DEMS from other Army Regiments 50 and Naval Staff 699.

An HMSO study published in 1955 'Merchant Shipping and the Demands of War' also states that as many as 11,600 merchant seamen between 1942 and 1944 died shortly after leaving their ship, or endured lives that were permanently damaged, either physically or mentally.

Also the qualification for war grave status, unlike the members of the three armed services, differs considerably for the Merchant Navy.

After nearly three years' research and reading through 4,716 digital pages of the '1938 - 1945 Deaths at Sea Register', Mr McGee has documented the names of a further 5,361 men from all corners of the British Commonwealth who died in service in the Merchant Navy during World War Two and have up until now been forgotten - and have no official commemoration - due to the circumstances of their deaths.

There are a number of MN men

not commemorated from the Vale of Glamorgan that we now have a list of, including Thomas Richard Lewis, aged 17, of 25, Westward Rise, Barry, who died of cerebrospinal fever on August 17, 1945.

WW2 and the months of August - local ships and men lost:

The British tramp steamer *Anglo Saxon*, with a crew of 41, was sunk by gunfire and a torpedo from the German raider *Widder* on August 21, 1940, off the west coast of Africa. She sank promptly, the German captain decided not to pick up any survivors.

When the *Anglo Saxon* sank, two jolly boats were manned. One was never heard of and in the other, out of the seven men, only two lived to reach the Bahamas after 71 days at sea.

Local men lost included Verdun Charles Green (24), Alfred John Nicholas (39), and Charles Henry Williams (29) who were all of Barry Dock.

On August 29, 1940, the *SS Dalblair* a British cargo steamer

when en route from the Tyne for Philadelphia via Scotland in ballast, was torpedoed by U-100 and sunk; 24 were lost from a crew of 42, including James Whittaker, a 16-year-old cabin boy, the son of John and Marjorie Whittaker of Barry.

On August 4, 1941, the British steamship *Tunisia* was bombed by an FW200 Kondor aircraft. She sank about 350 miles west of Achill Head, Co Mayo.

There were only five survivors from a complement of 43. Many local men were lost, including: Sailor Thomas Atwell (21) the son of Henry and EB Atwell, of Barry Dock; Albert Baade (46), John Doole (21) and galley boy James Forsyth (18) all from Cadoston; Able Seaman James Joseph Garland (32) and Hector R Gam (21) of Barry Dock; Able Seaman Patrick Hamilton, (30) of Barry; Ernest George Holmes (27) the son of George Ernest and Bronwen Holmes; Ernest's brother, Trevor Thomas Holmes, the ship's cook, aged 29, perished with him; Ordinary Seaman John C Hopkins (21) of Cadoston, and his brother William also died; JH Joghreen (64); cabin boy Frederick John (aged 15) of Cadoston; Manuel J Martinez (37); Hubert Ralph Painting (33); Ordinary Seaman WJ Pook (18); John Quinn - 16-year-old cabin boy; Frank Slade (40) son of Frank and Rose Slade; Joseph H Taylor (33); Ernest (Chippy) Haysham of a well-known and remembered local family man was a survivor.

The *SS Swiftpool* was a British cargo steamer. On August 5, 1941 when en route from Pellet to Middlebrough via Freetown, she was torpedoed by German submarine U-372 and sunk; 42 lost from a total crew of 44, including local

men Magnus Anderson, Alfred E Cusworth and Demetrius Xenophon.

The *Porthmeor* was a steam cargo ship sunk on August 20, 1941 after a collision in St George's Channel. A local man Charles H Pearson was lost.

On August 27, 1941 the steamship *Embassage* was travelling in convoy OS4 routing from Hull to Bathurst and Pelel. She was torpedoed and sunk by U-557.

The master, 32 crew members and six gunners were lost, including local men - Frederick Cunningham, Thomas Cunningham and Charles E Roberts.

On August 3, 1942, the British motor tanker *Tricula* was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-108, when en route from Curacao for Trinidad and Capetown with a cargo of 8,000 of crude oil. The sinking of the *Tricula* took the life of local man, Llewellyn J Howells.

The *SS Radchurch* was a British cargo steamer, on August 9, 1942, when en route from Wabana for Belfast Lough, in Convoy SC-94 as a straggler and carrying a cargo of iron ore, she was torpedoed by German submarine U-176 and sunk.

Crew member Edward G Sawle was a local man lost on the *Radchurch*.

On August 13, 1942, 12 Junkers 88s attacked, hitting the *SS Waimarama*.

The aviation fuel on deck burst into flame and the ship exploded and sank, with 80 of the 107 crew killed, including local man John Trevor Thomas.

The *SS Hamla* was a British steam freighter; on August 23, 1942, she was en route from Rio de Janeiro for the UK with a cargo of iron ore, when she was torpe-

doed by U-506 and sunk.

A crew of 42 was lost, including local men James Britt, Louis Arthur Goule, William H Hobbs and William Jemmett.

The *SS Uskside* was bombed by enemy aircraft on August 1, 1942, with the loss of local man William Roberts. On August 17, 1943, the unescorted *Empire Stanley* was torpedoed and sunk by U-197 south-southeast of Cap Sainte Marie, Madagascar.

The master, 18 crew members, five gunners and one passenger were lost including local men John Henry Arnold, William O England, John A Haughton, John B McCarthy and Cyril Thomas.

Formerly the Merchant Service, the title was changed to that used today by royal proclamation following its sterling service during World War One.

The Red Ensign flag was flown over the headquarters of the Department for Transport and other national buildings on September 3, in tribute, to mark the UK's 14th Merchant Navy Day.

Since its introduction in 2000, Merchant Navy Day has provided an opportunity to remember the sacrifices of the seafarers of the past, to show appreciation for British shipping today and to look ahead to our future as a maritime nation.

The title 'Merchant Navy' was bestowed by decree of the late King George V, in recognition and appreciation of loyal and heroic duties performed during World War One.

Tenovus and Cardiff Fashion Week team up

TENOVUS is partnering with Cardiff Fashion Week to give supporters who donate to their newly-opened charity shop on Holton Road the chance to be VIPs at catwalk shows throughout the week.

The charity launched the partnership in Cardiff where Fashion Week stylist, Wenda James-Rowe, met Tenovus community fundraiser, Alexandra Morgan, and the team at the Roath Park Tenovus shop.

Alexandra Morgan said: "We're really looking

forward to Cardiff Fashion Week. We love seeing people put together stylish outfits from donated goods in our shops, so we're excited to be able to give our supporters in Barry the chance to enjoy even more fashion in October!"

The opportunity will run throughout September. To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets, donate a bag of clothes to any Tenovus shop in the Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge, or Cardiff areas. To find your local Tenovus shop, visit www.tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8850.

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Go Commercial Finance Limited can also help with commercial mortgages, development finance, invoice factoring and discounting, bridging finance, asset finance and business insurance.

MP's marathon cash provides vital funds for local lifeboat



CREW and supporters of Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station were delighted to receive a cheque for just under £2,500 from Alun Cairns MP who raised the money by running the London Marathon earlier this year.

Stuart Macmillan, chairman of Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station, added: "We at the station are always grateful for the support of others, but we are particularly grateful for such a large donation received after such effort on the part of Mr Cairns."

"The volunteer crew, fundraisers and education team at the station are dedicated to supporting this station and it provides a very welcome boost to them when people like Alun recognise the work that they do and feel compelled to help too."

"It costs the RNLI £140 million each year to save 22 lives a day across the UK and we simply couldn't do it without the generous support of the community we serve."

To find out more about the work of the RNLI, contact Elizabeth Matthews on 01446 738923.

Seafarers and late Legion chairman are both honoured



It was a special day in Barry recently when benches were dedicated to local seafarers and the late chairman of the Royal British Legion John Hobbs.



THE Barry Branch of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) recently presented a bench in memory of all seafarers to the trustees of Barry Memorial Hall to be placed adjacent to the Town Cenotaph.

In an opening address, the branch chairman Jim Greenway said the bench was provided by several generous donations.

The branch padre, the Reverend Malcolm Davies, then dedicated the bench.

The Barry branch of the Royal British Legion presented a similar bench in memory of the late chairman Mr John Hobbs which was dedicated by Father Ben Andrews.

PHOTOS by JOHN O'BEIRNE VALE PRESS PICTURES

To order images: Tel: 01446 738823

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New store's 'building bonanza'

ROBERT Price Builders' Merchants is planning a 'building bonanza' exhibition at their newly-opened branch in Cardiff Road, Barry on September 12.

The event will feature over 60 manufacturers, along with live demonstrations, special 'bonanza' offers and competitions.

Robert Price is the largest independent builders' merchants in south Wales, and the manager of the Barry branch, Ben Pike, said: "I strongly encourage trade professionals and DIY enthusiasts to visit the event on Thursday, September 12, to discuss upcoming projects directly with manufacturers, make the most of special one-off deals, and enjoy what promises to be a very entertaining and informative event."

"Doors open between 3pm and 5:30pm, and between 6pm and 9pm, so there will be plenty of time to learn about the latest industry developments, and explore what the new Barry branch has to offer."

LOCAL SCHOOLS HELP WILDLIFE TO THRIVE



ABOVE: Coun Chris Franks, chair of the Vale Biodiversity Partnership, with the St Andrews Major team.

SCHOOLS and nurseries across the Vale have been rewarded for their efforts to manage their grounds for wildlife in the annual Vale of Glamorgan Biodiversity Partnership Awards for Wildlife.

This year, St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School took first place.

The school grounds include areas of long grass and scrub which are particularly important in providing refuges for animals such as moths, butterflies, slow worms, birds and hedgehogs. A pond, wetland, old stone walls and log piles all add to the wonderful wildlife mosaic found at the

school. Judge Rob Parry, of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, was particularly impressed with the amount of wildlife habitat created and how it was being used in everyday school life. He was also thrilled with the children's understanding and appreciation of the wildlife.

He said: "It was great to hear the children being able to identify native trees and tell us what wildlife they have seen in the past, as well as give their own opinions of what wildlife projects should be done next," he said.

The winners received £250, a framed certificate and presentation bowl, thanks to sponsors RWE NPower, Aberthaw, and were presented with them in the

Grand Parade at this year's Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show. Prizes of £100 and £50 were awarded for second and third places.

Overall results for all shortlisted entries are as follows:

Projects by schools, colleges, education centres or children's groups: 1st – St Andrews Major C/W Primary School; 2nd – Cadoston Nursery School; 3rd equal – Bute Cottage Nursery and Llangan Primary School.

Highly Commended: Swallow Playgroup. Commended: All Saints C/W Primary School; St Helens Roman Catholic School; Cogan Primary School; Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant; and Cadoston Primary School.

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Out and About with The GEM

Curtis' time-travel comedy makes for a heartwarming treat!

RICHARD CURTIS is British comedy's very own King Midas - everything he touched, from *Four Weddings... and Notting Hill*, through to his directorial debut *Love... Actually*, turned to box-office (if not critical) gold.

His last film, *The Boat That Rocked*, was a rare misfire for Curtis, something he aims to put right with *About Time*.

Domhnall Gleeson stars as Tim, who learns from his father (Bill Nighy) at the age of 21, that he has the ability to time travel, and therefore alter the lives of both himself and those around him. However, when he meets Mary (Rachel McAdams), Tim's world suddenly becomes a much different place...

The common, and not unfair, perception of Richard Curtis is that he is a purveyor of twee, idealised, upper middle class worlds where life bumbles along in a sweet, comedic fashion. If the thought of that repels you then *About Time* may not alter your thoughts.

However, it is fair to say that you would be missing out on what is a heartfelt treat of a film - moving, funny and with the traditional levels of Curtis saccharine dialled back.

Much like Woody Allen, Curtis' films tend to have a protagonist that is a cipher for the writer, a role Hugh Grant has played incredibly well for him. This time around it is Domhnall Gleeson's turn to play that role, and it is one he delivers with aplomb.

Trading his Irish brogue for a Grant-esque accent is not the only thing he shares with the scourge of national newspapers, the



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

performance charming and witty and thoroughly watchable, if a little sharper and less bumbling than Grant's offerings. Gleeson makes for a tender, human lead, sketched from real life, and the actor's turn is absolutely superb.

Opposite him Rachel McAdams, who does romantic comedy with effortless aplomb, is irrepressibly cute and likeable, the pair sharing a natural, unforced chemistry that lights up the screen, while Bill Nighy, as Tim's dad, offers up his trademark easy-going performance that fits the tone of the film perfectly; the three spearheading a cast that all deliver, with Tom Hollander another notable standout.

What is most appealing from Curtis this time around is that while the subject of love is still the driving force - and, as is his tradition it is with an American woman - the nature of the story means that themes of family, loss and growing older are all interwoven into it. This makes it both the

most personal, and relatable of his films, as well as being probably his most rounded and mature work to date.

Whereas *Love... Actually*, and arguably his other works, have been too quick to play up the schmaltz aspect, creating a slightly sickly sweet concoction that can be too rich for some, *About Time* strikes the balance just right; those moments are still there but weighted down with a more realistic touch that makes it far more grounded.

The time travel concept is negotiated early on with casual ease, allowing these themes to come to the surface and not be overpowered by a narrative device that could have been too overplayed; instead it complements what Curtis is trying to say amazingly well.

About Time is a truly beautiful film, the sort of film that wraps you up in a cosy blanket and tells you everything is going to be okay eventually, despite the pitfalls of life. That may not go down well with everybody, but let it into your heart and you will certainly be rewarded. **VERDICT:** Richard Curtis' most personal, mature and rounded work to date, *About Time* is a wonderful film that casts its spell over you with heartwarming performances and a witty, touching story. Cynics may bemoan its slightly soft-focus view of life, but it still makes for a gorgeous little film. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Notting Hill* (1999), *The Time Traveller's Wife* (2009)

Brothers reunited

PORHCRAWL-based Phoenix Theatre.com will perform *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, from October 10-12 - the story of twins separated at birth that become friends, unaware they are brothers.

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Annual dog show

PROUD owners of a dog that is clever, cute, agile, speedy or good-looking can enter him or her in some of the classes at the annual Bridgend County RDA Dog Show on Sunday, September 15 at Pencoed College from 11am.

'Anxious creatures'

MALE anxieties and fixations are explored in an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Barry-based artist Jon Ratigan, in an exhibition at the Travellers in Mind Gallery, Barry Station, from September 16. The gallery is open Monday to Friday, mornings only, and the exhibition runs until November 8.

Valeways' walks

ON Wednesday, September 18 at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

On Sunday, September 22 at 2pm, 'Start of Autumn walk' meeting in St Andrews Major by the church.

On Tuesday, September 24 at 1.30pm, 'Views of Porthkerry Country Park', meeting at the Cwm Ciddy (Toby Inn) car park, Port Road West, Barry.

Age Concern coffee

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale is holding a coffee morning at Cowbridge lesser hall on Saturday, September 21 between 10am-12pm.

Legal advice for elderly

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale are holding a free legal advice surgery at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road,

A chance to try indoor bowling

ON Saturday, September 21 from 10am-2pm, Sully Indoor Bowls Arena is offering a free taster session when qualified coaches will be on hand to show you the ropes.

This is the ideal opportunity for all aged seven or over to play an all-year-round sport which not only provides good exercise in comfortable surroundings, but also an affordable and social venue to make new friends.

Simply turn up, we provide the rest, and who knows, you could be our next star bowler.

Our Olympians epitomised the joy competition in sport can bring. You could experience this too!

Barry, on Tuesday, September 24 (10am-12pm), to raise funds for the annual western Vale clients' Christmas party.

Support welcomed, including donations, raffle prizes. Contact co-ordinator Gary Bohun (01446 795549).

Passmores, local Barry solicitors, will be able to give guidance on any issue. All matters are treated in confidence. No appointment is necessary. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Tax help

TAX Help for Older People will hold an advice session at Pencoed Library on Tuesday, September 24. To book an appointment, or to access telephone helpline, call 0845 60123321.

Writing class

WRITING in the community - an accredited South Glamorgan class - at The Kymyn, Beach Road, Penarth on September 26 from 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Contact 02920 701569 or 07799 312 792.

Writers' circle

THE Bridgend Writers' Circle will be holding its AGM on Friday, September 13 at the Bryntirion and Laleston Community Centre starting at 7.15pm.

It will be followed by announcements of the winners of the Saviker Shield and readings of the winning entries.

Proceedings will be completed by 9.15pm. Open to all writing enthusiasts.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour councillors for Castleland Ward in Barry, Councillors Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Karl Kuhnell

and Les Sword, will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, September 14 in the Drop-In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry from 10.30am until 12pm.

No appointment is needed. If you need advice but can't attend, please call Coun Chris Elmore 01446 450 007 or 07867 506 116.

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NEWS FROM DINAS POWYS PROBUS CLUB

Don's life behind the camera

IN August, Don Llewellyn gave a talk to the club entitled 'Life Behind The Camera', an account of his career as a TV film editor, and later as a director/editor.

Born and educated in Wales, his interest in photography started as a child, playing with his father's camera but unfortunately without any film – due to the War.

After studying photography at college, he landed

a job as an in-house stills photographer with the new television company WWN (Teledu Cymru) but soon moved on to learning the craft of film-editing.

His skill was noticed and he joined HTV at Culverhouse Cross, known internally as 'The Taff Mahal'.

Eventually becoming a film director, his early years were spent developing the series 'Survival of the Fittest', which involved tests of strength, stamina and not infrequently bravery, performed by retired sports stars such as rugby international (and British Lion) John Taylor.

He now admits that in today's world most of the content would be banned as health and safety risks. Paul Ringer, the former rugby star, was one of the most enthusiastic competitors and a real entertainer after the day's filming had finished.

Don believes that there is nowhere better than Wales for filming out-door programmes, because of the dramatic scenery, although the weather can sometimes make life on the hills rather tough.

Whenever there was a hitch, it was the director's job to decide what to do next as a 50-strong crew would all be standing around, perhaps wet and cold and all anxious to get back to the pub.

He claims that the most important skill a film director should have is to learn how to 'point' so that the crew believe he knows what he wants them to do next and is never caught in two minds.

A director should never tell a crew member precisely the detail of the next move, but leave them to work out the best result. The overall aim should be sufficient for experienced camera and sound men.

Don had an interesting trip to Moscow, where he bribed the army guards to give him front row seats at a State parade, was impressed by how many young children spoke perfect English, but was unable to shake-off his 'minder' who wore at all times a long coat and suede shoes.

In Bethlehem, at his request, a security guard organised a fictitious bomb threat so that he could film Israeli soldiers rushing through the streets.

Stories of an infamous Chicago gangster from the Capone era had come to Don's attention and he flew to Chicago to make a programme about him. Morris Llewellyn Humphreys, alias 'The Hump,' also

known as 'The Brainy Welsh Hood' (his parents were Welsh) had been one of Capone's gang, and it was he who organised the St Valentine's Day Massacre.

Humphreys had died in 1969, but Don traced his daughter Luella to a ranch in Oklahoma, where she showed him lots of photos of her father. Luella became a concert pianist and at one time lived in Italy where she became friendly with the film star, Rossano Brazzi and gave birth to his son.

Highlights of Don's career included filming with Wynford Vaughan Thomas, one of the greatest broadcasters in Don's opinion, and Lord Tonypantry.

He made several programmes with Prince Charles, who featured in a film about the Countryside Commission for Wales and then recorded a remarkable interview with a Cardiganshire farmer and cob-breeder that has become a classic piece of TV history. He was always very friendly and interested in the subject of the film.

Career milestones included winning a BAFTA award in 1970 for a film starring Leonard Rossiter called *Thick as Thieves*, named 'The Best Regional Programme of Any Kind,' and a prize at the Hungarian Film Festival for *Survival of the Fittest*.

Don spent 40 years travelling all over the world, happily, as he himself says, at someone else's expense. He once landed at 17 different airports in 15 days in Spain and made 299 helicopter trips, not quite 300, but now warns others that helicopters don't have toilets!

Now retired, he wins prizes for gardening and also has had two novels published. The vote of thanks was given by Peter Blackwell.

CR

Kids Aloud heading off to sing in South Africa

SEVENTY youngsters, recently selected for Wales Millennium Centre/Only Kids Aloud choir, including nine from the local area, have been invited to sing with Cape Town Opera in South Africa next April, during cultural celebrations to mark 20 years of democracy in the Rainbow Nation.

Michael Williams, managing director of Cape Town Opera, surprised the young choir members with this invitation as they came together for the first time for rehearsals at Wales Millennium Centre.

Speaking via video message, with Table Mountain in the background, Michael Williams, accompanied

by two singers from Cape Town Opera, congratulated the young singers on being selected for the choir after making it through a tough two-stage audition process.

He then invited the youngsters to perform alongside Cape Town Opera in The Artscape Theatre Centre, near Cape Town's waterfront next spring.

"Cape Town Opera and Wales Millennium Centre have had a close relationship over the years – we love your theatre," said Michael Williams in his video message.

"Now, we need to talk about our next collaboration. There have been many months of discussion as to how we can bring the best of Wales to the world, and take the

best of the world to Wales. So we've come up with an idea that can take you – of course, the best of Wales – to come here. We would like to formally invite you to come to Cape Town as our special guests."

The invitation was received with delight by the children aged 9-13.

The children from the area are: Ian Lloyd, Bridgend; Lucy Miles, Barry; Rebekah West, Dinas Powys; Zoe Mules, Penarth; William Davies, Cowbridge; Huw Jones, Cowbridge; Tanwen Mair Cray, Cowbridge; Efa Angharad Cray, Cowbridge and Nel Rhys Lewis, Cowbridge.

Nel Rhys Lewis from Cowbridge said: "I'm really excited. The choir went to Russia last year, but I couldn't go. But I'm really excited about the news of us singing in Cape Town."

Charity lunch

ENTERTAINER Ceri Dupree will be the star attraction at a charity lunch by the sea with a three course lunch and a sparkling drinks reception.

It is on Friday, September 20, at the Penarth Yacht Club, Penarth sea front. Tickets £35, 12 noon – 4pm. The event is hosted by Welsh Hearts, funding defibrillators throughout Wales.

For more information, contact Sharon Owen on 07730 944700 or email fundraising@welsh-hearts.org.

Tall ship at sunset!



This striking image of a tall ship in Barry Dock was taken by GEM reader Kathy Bennett.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D791.

● £2,000: 234855.
● The rollover, which now stands at £6,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 4 1 9 4 2 0, 223595, 870584, 858505, 887282, 218294, 958652, 561557, 802862, 481403, 661028, 868742, 354128, 308842, 936581, 176720, 403970, 626282, 336845, 438564.

● £5: 752670, 137793, 239105, 659030, 106468, 234791, 194947, 437224, 140475, 806235, 551126, 161341, 885759, 289559, 710891, 870882,

605943, 178096, 271045, 804676, 741402, 124841, 566279, 455078, 747375, 530444, 435443, 491825, 640810, 305934, 748931, 501216, 536438, 817497, 865744, 170482, 197192, 465226, 592300, 166234, 422665, 893549, 339769, 984138, 562852, 845556, 567020, 289653, 675188, 719357, 898219, 530487, 298790, 878364, 732991, 675856, 526562, 875063.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Dyffryn Gardens opens its doors

DYFFRYN Gardens will open its doors for free as part of 'Open Doors Wales' on Saturday, September 14.

The gardens open at 10am and the recently renovated house is now open from 11am to 4pm (last entry 3:30pm), after being closed for almost 20 years. It is still a work in progress, from rooms with beautiful original

features, to rooms that still lie derelict.

"It's the first year Dyffryn has been open as part of the National Trust and it's great to show our support and be part of this wonderful initiative," Gwenno Griffith, visitor experience manager at Dyffryn Gardens, said.

For more information about Dyffryn Gardens events, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens.

Art Central hosts new exhibition

THE inaugural exhibition of the Take Five artists' hub is being hosted at the Vale Council's Art Central gallery in Barry.

The Take Five exhibition was created by Cardiff and Vale-based artists Kay Keogh, Susan Roberts and Shirley Anne Owen of the Three or More art group, who have joined forces with Bernard Heslin and Laura Holliday to create a contemporary exhibition of paintings, sculptural works, papier mache, found objects and drawings.

The exhibition, which is supported by Arts Council of Wales, will run from September 7 to October 5. A private viewing was held on Saturday September 7, opened by sculptor and artist Dilys Jackson. Arts development officer and gallery curator Tracey Harding said: "The event drew in large numbers of visitors, who enjoyed this exciting new amalgamation of artists and eclectic art."

"The exhibition comprises a mixture of paintings, sketches and sculptures, beautifully complementing each other."

The Take Five exhibition is open to public viewing from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Further information about this and future exhibitions at Art Central can be found at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

viewing from 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Further information about this and future exhibitions at Art Central can be found at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.



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OPEN EVENTS 2013



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Seniors age 11 - 18

OPEN MORNING

Saturday 5th October from 9.30am

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Juniors age 7 - 11

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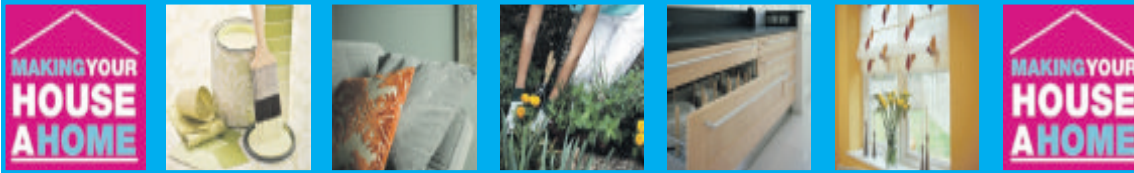
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THE CARE AND REPAIR OF YOUR GARDEN AFTER THE WEAR AND TEAR OF SUMMER...

AFTER a summer of being dried out by heat and trampled on by outdoor activities, your lawn may be looking a bit tired.

If you want to restore any bare patches, or are even thinking of sowing a completely new lawn, early autumn is a good time to do it.

But how do you choose the type of seed for the job from the array of different grass seeds on the market?

Help is at hand from Which? Gardening, the Consumers' Association magazine, who have just

by **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

revealed the results of its test on 36 lawn seed mixes and repair kits, assessing both germination and appearance of the grass and coverage of each plot at monthly intervals.

Best overall lawn seed mix is Asda Multipurpose (£3 for 500g), which the survey says will give you a great looking lawn.

In the trial, it established quickly that it produced a dense, finer-leaved turf, and was among the best in terms of coverage and appearance, and recovered well after wear-and-tear tests.

The next highest scorer was Mr Fothergill's Better Lawn (£5.99 for 500g, available from garden centres), which looked good throughout the autumn and following spring, recovered quickly after the wear-and-tear tests, and had produced a dense sward by the end of the trial.

For those just repairing their lawn, the researchers recommend Miracle-Gro Patch Magic (£9.99 for 1kg, Tesco), which worked exceptionally well in the trial and established quickly.

The plastic shaker contains coir and fertiliser with very little grass seed. The coir shows where you've scattered it and indicates where it needs watering. The grass is fine-leaved and green, but didn't cope as well with wear-and-tear as other recommended lawn seeds.

Other recommended lawn-seed mixes include Wilko Multipurpose with ryegrass (£6 for 750g, Wilkinson), which produced tough grass with a good density throughout the trial, and Verve quick

Start (£3.98 for 500g, B&Q) which was one of the first in the test to germinate and completely cover the ground.

If you are sowing a new lawn, you'll need to dig over the area thoroughly to allow free drainage, removing stones and weeds as you go, then incorporate organic matter such as compost or well-rotted manure. On heavy clay incorporate sharp grit and organic soil conditioner. On light soils just incorporate the organic matter.

Firm the ground by laying a plank of wood on it and walking over it several times. Then move the plank across the site until the whole area is firmed – but not compacted.

Next, rake the area to produce a fine 'tilth' on which to sow the seed. You may need to rake repeatedly until the ground is level and the surface is crumbly.

Make sure you buy good quality grass seed which is the current season's stock and choose the type to suit your needs.

A lawn for a family-friendly garden may include a mixture of dwarf perennial ryegrasses to withstand heavy use, while a lawn just to look upon might be a mixture of fine tufted grasses.

Always follow the instructions on the packet about seed distribution and don't be tempted to sow more thickly than recommended.

With a little help from the sunshine-warmed earth and the upcoming autumn rains, you should be able to give any lawn or lawn repair a head-start.

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Excellent local response to Dinas Powys Village Show

CROWDS flocked to the village show in Dinas Powys in record numbers and were rewarded with magnificent displays and exhibits and a variety of entertainment in the gardens.

Guest of honour, Terry Walton, star of Radio 2's Jeremy Vine garden slot, presented the prizes and welcomed the good-natured competitive spirit of the community.

The chairman of the show, Val Hartrey, thanked the volunteers, the patrons, Brynawel Garden Centre for the stage decoration and the contestants for making this one of the most memorable shows.

Thanks also go to the village shops and others who give great prizes to the excellent raffie.

It was very encouraging to have many new entrants in the show, as well as more experienced exhibitors.

There were mouth-watering cakes, artisan bread, tarts and fruit scones, jams and chutneys, enough to rival the 'Great British Bake Off'!

The trestle tables almost groaned with the amount of fine looking vegetables, herbs and attractive fruit that were presented in abundance.

Also, the much loved 'Whopper' section of giant pumpkins, marrows and potatoes was well supported.

The collages made by the Guide and Scout organisations were



Mrs Colman with her 'Carrier bag of flowers and foliage'.

colourful and excellently done.

The two scarecrows that had been made to advertise the show were impressive, as were those entered into that class.

All were a source of interest and amusement. Beautiful garden flowers including sweet peas, gladioli, dahlias and pelargoniums were very well represented.

Paintings and photos were a little down in number but were an attractive display.

The WI prepared the tea and refreshments and did a roaring trade.

There were many attractions for the children including a bouncy castle, Punch and Judy, model trains and an owl display plus the always popular Dinas Powys Ecumenical Seven.

Colourful gazebos housed other organisations of the village.

The trophy winners were:
British Gas Wales Cup for Cooking, Baking and Preserves –



ABOVE:

Cecil Townsend (fruit and veg champion), Keith Hatton (show secretary), Liz Richards (highest show points) and guest of honour Terry Walton.

Judy Watts.

Harry Phillips Plate for Fruit and Vegetables – Cecil Townsend.

Dinas Powys Garden Society Cup Flowers, Shrubs and Houseplants – Elizabeth Richards.

Randell Rose Bowl for Floral Art – Susan Colman.

Bernard McParlin Cup for Photography – Tom Alexander.

National Westminster Cup for Needlecrafts – Susan White.

D Hampton-Jeffery Cup for Painting and Drawing – Kath

Coleman.

Dinas Powys Community Council Cup for Craftwork – Jayne Smith.

Women's Institute Plate for highest overall points in show – Elizabeth Richards.

Young people's classes:

Dell Smith Cup for Nursery Classes – shared by Rebecca Harries, Lily Kerbey and Philippa Mumford.

J Brockhurst Cup for Reception Classes – Oliver McNabb.

Aquarius Cup for

school years one and two – shared by Haydn Craven and Alfie Sargeant.

Dinas Powys and St Andrews Morning WI Cup for school years three and four – Ross Newton.

St Cyres School Cup for school years five and six – Moses West.

Enid Jackson Cup for highest number of points in the Young People's classes – shared by Ross Newton and Alfie Sargeant.

VH

'New beginnings' at Barry Comp as new staff and students arrive



Mr Spencer, Mrs Gelling and Mr Cotsen joined the staff this week.

ONCE again a brand new cohort of year seven students has started their first year at Barry Comprehensive School.

The students looked incredibly smart as they took this significant step in their learning journey. These young men won't complete their GCSEs until 2018, but that journey starts now, especially with the challenges of a new literacy and numeracy framework.

The students have been placed in form groups which, for the first time, take the name of a very famous Welsh person.

This will involve research opportunities for the learners as they find out more about Dylan Thomas, Grace Williams and others.

Several new staff also began a first term at Barry Comprehensive: Mrs Briohny Gelling is the new second in maths; Mrs Nina Davies has joined the English department; Mr Jonathan Cotsen has joined the art department; Ms Danielle Smith will be covering Ms Sian Morgan's maternity leave and Mr Richard Spencer has joined the learning support team.

We wish all our new staff and students a happy and successful experience in what will be another very busy year.

Barrivale bridge

LATEST results from Barrivale:

September 2013: First, Jane Brook and Kay Dyer, 66.67 per cent; second Mark Roderick and Mike Best, 60.32; third, Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones 55.56. Jane and Kay also won on handi-cap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. **MB**



ABOVE: Miss Smith and Mrs Davies joined the staff this term.

To Wales – with love from Suzanne

FOR most people, retirement marks the end of the pressures of work and gives them a chance to relax and enjoy their free time; but Suzanne Goodall is not most people.

Shortly after she retired in the late 80s, she was on holiday with friends who were talking about their local children's hospice in England. When she returned from her holiday she realised that there was no provision for the care and support of life-limited children in Wales.

Shocked at the thought of the families of life-limited children coping on their own, she decided that she would dedicate her retirement to opening the first children's hospice in Wales. She embarked on an 11-year challenge to turn her idea into a reality.

With the help of the people of Wales, she raised over £3m and in January 1999 Ty Hafan opened its doors to offer comfort, care and support to life-limited children, young people and their families.

Since then, the charity has supported over 550 families and has extended its services beyond short-break care, and now offers its support all across south Wales.

Suzanne said: "I had no doubts that the people of Wales, when knowing the situation that these children and families faced, would open their hearts and give generously. My faith was indeed justified."

"In 1999, after 11 years of hard work, Ty Hafan opened its doors and we saw the first families cross the threshold – built on the coast in Sully, near Penarth, it is truly a haven."

Suzanne's vision and dedication has left an incredible legacy; a Wales where children who are expected to die in childhood enjoy a full family life.

This week is Remember a Charity Week and Ty Hafan is asking the people of Wales to leave their legacy to Wales by including a gift to Ty Hafan in their Will.

Jenna Lewis, head of individual giving at Ty Hafan, said: "Gifts in Wills fund the care provided to one in five of the children Ty Hafan supports. Without gifts in Wills we simply couldn't support as many families."

If you would like more information on leaving a gift in your Will to Ty Hafan, and contributing your own legacy to Wales, you can contact the charity on 029 2053 2199 or email legacy@tyhafan.org.

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Unstoppable march of computer technology

BEFORE our summer break, I reported that guest speaker Peter had revisited his 2009 forecasts of the development of major factors in computing and communications and what happened.

Here are some of his thoughts; more at a later date.

DISPLAY

Resolution: The latest iPad uses a high resolution called retina display. It is so good that you cannot easily see individual pixels (dots of colour).

There is no immediate need to improve on this, but improvements will come as gadgets become more sophisticated and improved resolution gives a commercial advantage.

Power draw: The power needed to run these better displays is reducing and will extend battery duration between charges.

Projection: 'Head-up' projection has been around for years (such as used by fighter pilots). In cars it would mean being able to read the dashboard without taking your eyes off the road.

Google Glass enables a smart-phone in your pocket to project images to a mini-screen attached to a pair of spectacles. Will it catch on?

Under development are flexible plastic screens using quantum dots. Such screen can be shaped to suit immediate needs and rolled away when not in use.

COMPLEXITY

MOORE'S Law observed that several computer properties would tend to double every 18–24 months.

Predicted to come to an end several times, it has nevertheless continued to apply regardless. Gordon Moore was

hoping it might apply for 10 years.

That was 40 years ago, and latest thinking says it is slowing down and will last only another 10 years...

On current trends, today's £500 gadget should still cost £500 in 2030, yet be able to store ALL music. What you do not want to carry in your pocket will be accessible from 'The Cloud.'

PROCESSOR

THE processor will handle more and more tasks ever faster as the trend for more powerful chips continues (see Moore's Law above.)

By 2020 a chip will be as powerful as a 2013 computer.

The battle will be between major manufacturers ARM and INTEL for domination. The ARM chip is used in mobile phones and portable computers as it produces less heat and therefore doesn't need as much fan cooling. The need for a fan affects device size and weight.

BATTERY

THE limiting factor on all mobile devices is the battery life. The search for new and better materials continues apace with the potential of great rewards for the winner.

As chips run more efficiently, the reduced cooling energy required also contributes to increased battery life between charges. ARM is ahead of INTEL in this race at moment. Of course, when your laptop is plugged into mains supply, energy is not a limiting factor.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 24 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm-9.30pm, 'Hits and tips' on how to use WORD and improve the presentation of your documents. Visitors always welcome.

HOWARD DESMOND

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Give Staffie Mack a chance!

MACK is an eight-year-old Staffie, a very sweet boy, who has been overlooked for too long because of his age.

Mack does mix with other dogs, but would prefer to be the centre of attention in his future home. He is a fab dog, who just needs a loving home with plenty of cuddles.

He would like to live with a staffie lover, older children or adults only, and prefers to have company through the day.

He is housetrained and has lived with cats in the past so could settle with them.

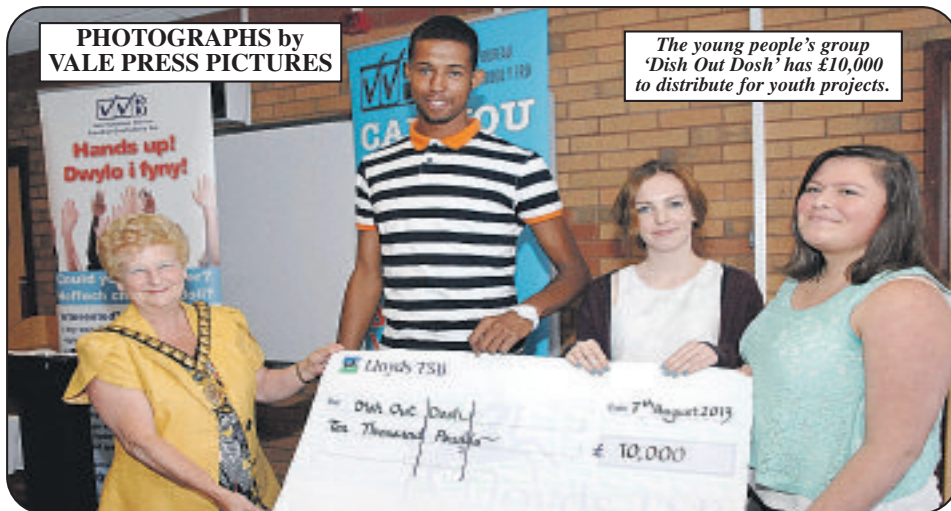
Linda Feagan (Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend)



VOLUNTEERS ARE HONoured WITH AWARDS

PHOTOGRAPHS by
VALE PRESS PICTURES

The young people's group
'Dish Out Dosh' has £10,000
to distribute for youth projects.



THE Vale Volunteer Bureau held its ninth annual awards event, which recognises local volunteers, hosted by the Vale Mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson (above), at Cardiff and Vale College.

Present were volunteers nominated for the WCVA Year of the Volunteer award and Millennium volunteers.

Six individuals and two groups were nominated for the WCVA's award, resulting in one of the

groups 'Teen Spirit for Teenage Cancer Trust' being the overall winner for the groups category for the whole of Wales!

The event also celebrated young people between 14 – 25 years, who were awarded their Millennium volunteer certificates for the hours they have contributed to volunteering.

The Mayor was also presented with a giant cheque for £34,942,587.00. The cheque represents the monetary value of volunteering in the Vale of Glamorgan.



Cathedral School sixth form centre is opened

Advertising
feature

The Cathedral School's sixth form centre has opened to the class of 2015, the first cohort of students to study A-Levels at the school.

Opened by the Cathedral School Custos, Mr Gilbert Lloyd and his predecessors, Mr Peter Davey and Mr Alistair Golley, the brand new sixth form centre provides dedicated social and study space for students, comprising state-of-the-art technology, a common room, seminar rooms and

the headmaster of the Cathedral School, Mr Stephen Morris, said: "This is a landmark day in the school's history. Following many years of planning and preparation, we are delighted to open the sixth form centre and welcome our students."

"When planning the sixth form centre, it was important that it was created as a dedicated space for sixth formers, which made them feel distinctly different from the rest of the campus, while at the same time, still part of the Cathedral School community."

The Cathedral School sixth

form will offer very small classes, highly experienced staff with close university links and an ambitious and supportive culture in equal measure. It will bring freshness, excitement and intense focus for students who would like to be part of a unique experience, not simply 'run of the mill', within a genuinely co-educational context.

Acknowledged as the top performing co-educational school in Wales at GCSE for the third year running (*The Times*), the Cathedral School's expansion to sixth form is off to the best possible start.

Marathon cyclists complete Taff Trail for Ty Hafan

Anthony Miles, Santiago Coronado, Craig Hancock, Andrew Evans, Oscar Evans, Kyle Watkins, Wayne Thomas, Karl Johnson.



Ramblers head for Monmouth

TRELLECH, Monmouthshire, was the starting point for the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers on their Sunday walk at the beginning of September.

There are 26 known spellings for the village, and of the six road signs leading people into the village, three of them have different spellings.

Starting off from the Babington Centre, 19 ramblers made their way out of the village. There was a definite feel of autumn in the air when we set out, but we were soon discarding layers as the walk progressed.

The views over the valley were spectacular, looking down at the River Wye in the far distance below us, not realising that we would soon be making our way that far down into the valley.

We skirted Cuckoo Wood, before heading north towards Whitebrook. While these villages are beautiful and genteel now, there are still remains of their industrial past which have been incorporated into the villagers' gardens.

Lunch was taken by a lovely brook and the walkers made their way into the Pwllpythin Wood, northwards through fields of grass, the maize taller than us walkers.

At Trellech Common, the weather turned and out came the waterpuffs. The elegant pointed spire of the Church of St Nicholas indicated that we were getting closer to our final destination, the renowned Lion Inn, Trellech.

For further information, visit www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

GF

HUNDREDS of cyclists completed a gruelling 52-mile bike ride from Brecon to Cardiff in aid of Ty Hafan, the Sully-based charity, on Sunday, September 1.

One of the 420 cyclists to take part in the charity's Taff Trail Challenge was Andrew Evans, dad to 20-month-old Oscar who was referred to Ty Hafan earlier this year.

Andrew, from Pontprennau, finished the cycle ride in about five hours and his team has so far raised more than £2,500 for Ty Hafan.

He said: "The first 15 miles were a struggle, but once we got past those it was much easier."

Oscar, who suffers from a life-limiting condition called Menkes disease, was waiting at the finish line with his mum, Jennifer.

Andrew said: "We have received such amazing support from Ty Hafan and I really wanted to give something back."

"Taking part in the challenge was a brilliant way to show our appreciation and I can't wait to do it again next year!"

It is estimated that the event, sponsored by Julian Hodge Bank, will raise more than £50,000 for Ty Hafan.

Ty Hafan is not part of the health service and in 2011-12 received just 10 per cent statutory funding towards more than £3 million needed to provide care and support to life-limited families in Wales.

To continue to offer its unique service to families, it relies on the generosity of the public, its corporate sponsors and volunteers.

To find out more about Ty Hafan, visit www.tyhafan.org.

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PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP ATTRACTS PEOPLE FROM AS FAR AFIELD AS THE NETHERLANDS!

SUNDAY, September 8 saw the second Ferguson T20 Ploughing Championship held in the Vale.

The event even attracted two competitors from as far a field as the Netherlands!

Mr Dienand Nocolai who had travelled with his competition plough took part with a Ferguson Tractor that had been loaned by Mr Basil George, of Omore Village.

Mr Nocolai said: "I have this tractor at home and it was very kind of Mr George to allow me to use his tractor. I do not farm, although my father was a farmer. I enjoy ploughing and get out whenever I can."

Mr George also supplied Mr Co Llooiesteijn, from the Netherlands, with a tractor to pull his plough.

The ages of the competitors were as wide as the age of the machines they were driving. One of the youngest was Sam Richie (15) who only came to ploughing a year ago.

Sam was taking part in the 'Vintage Ploughing' and has owned his own grey Ferguson tractor (1936) since he was 13.

Although Sam's parents are not farmers he does have farming and ploughing in his blood as grandfather, Ron Meredith from Buith Wells, started his ploughing career at the age of 13 and continued until his retirement only a few years ago.

Mr Meredith said: "We still have five acres at home which Sam has ploughed. He has always been keen on his tractors and ploughing was the next step."

Ferguson enthusiast and club member, Mr Ian



Dienand Nocolai.



Ian Ferguson and Sam Richie.



An RAF tractor.

MACMILLAN Cancer is holding 'the world's largest coffee morning' on Friday, September 7 at 10am in the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major.

Come along and enjoy coffee and cakes or make a cake for the competition, with a view to auctioning them off during the morning - all for a donation of £2 per person. Enquiries to Eileen Mathews 01656 880235 or Sue Lewis 01656 880397.

A CHARITY night will be held at The Farmers Arms, St Brides Major on October 3 starring Miss Tina Sparkle. Tickets (£22) include a two-course dinner from 7pm. Show starts at 9pm, followed by a disco. Proceeds in aid of Cancer charity LATCH and the British Lung Foundation.

THE produce market will be held in the hall,

ST BRIDES NEWS

St Brides 10am-12pm on September 14. If you have surplus vegetables or fruit you would like to sell, you will be very welcome. Please contact Margaret Lewis on 01656 880884 or e mail magsml@hotmail.co.uk to book a table.

WICK chapel has need of you. It is known as the

small chapel with the big friendly heart.

As part of the Harvest Thanksgiving this year, collections are being made for the Porthcawl food bank. Can you help? Harvest Thanksgiving is at the chapel, Sunday, September 29, at 3pm. A warm welcome awaits. A DAY for your diary.

Heritage Coast open day on September 28. AN evening with the Hennesseys at the Priory, Thursday September 19, 7.30pm.

SEPTEMBER 22, Harvest Thanksgiving, All Saints Church, Southerndown.

SEPTEMBER 29, Harvest Thanksgiving and Parish lunch at St Bridget's.

GEM columnist's book will feature tales from the Vale

GEM columnist Brian Lee is delighted to learn that The History Press has just reprinted two of his books Central Cardiff - The Second Selection and Yesterday's Cardiff. The latter was first published in 2007.

Brian said: "I have published around 20 books about my beloved Cardiff and the very first one Cardiff Remembered, which was first published in 1997, has been reprinted three times in 1999, 2006 and 2010."

Brian said: "As for my long awaited Great Scandals & Gambles of the

Welsh Turf, I am assured by Ashley Drake, of St David's Press, that it will be published in time for Christmas."

He added: "A number of stories in it will include owners, trainers and riders from the Vale and just some of them who feature in my stories are Evan Williams, Tim Vaughan, Jane Mathias, David Brace, Bill Howells, Dean Coleman and Jeff Thomas."

Yesterday's Cardiff and Central Cardiff - The Second Selection are both published by The History Press at £12.99 and are available from all good bookshops.

Cowbridge Choral Society New season begins

COWBRIDGE Choral Society begins its new season of rehearsals tonight, September 12, and will be preparing material for the Christmas concert on December 7.

The Christmas programme will include several well known pieces as well as others that may be new to the audience which together will make for a very enjoyable concert for both singers and listeners.

New members are always welcome to join, and experience is not essential.

Rehearsals take place in the United Reform Church, Westgate Street (opposite the Police Station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

For more information, go to www.cowbridgechoralsociety.co.uk.

The overall winner of the Ferguson European T20 Ploughing Championship was Mr Keith Williams from Kings Caple, Herefordshire and the winner of the open class was Mr Adam Llewellyn from Aberkenfig.

JANE BISSETT

OPEN DOORS AT LLANTWIT MAJOR DRYSAU AGORED YN LLANILLTUD FAWR

22 September

22 Medi

Don't miss the chance to explore behind the scenes at some of the Vale of Glamorgan's most important historic buildings.

On 22 September three of Llantwit Major's architectural gems will be open to public under the Civic Trust Open Doors programme.

Bachwch ar y cyfle hwn i gael cip y tu ôl i lenni rhai o adeiladau hanesyddol pwysigaf y Fro.

Ar 22 Medi, bydd tri o drysorau pensaernïol Llanilltud Fawr yn agor eu drysau i'r cyhoedd fel rhan o raglen Drysau Agored yr Ymddiriedolaeth Ddinesig.

See restoration in action at the **Old Place**, Castle Street, where owner and stonemason Anton Jones is restoring the former Tudor manor house. Guided tours will be offered at 11.00am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Places are limited and must be booked in advance on 01446 704799 / 704828.

Elsewhere in Llantwit there is a rare opportunity to explore the whole of the medieval **Town Hall building** as well as the Heritage Room. Test your local knowledge while there by taking part in a treasure hunt.

Finally, relax with a cup of tea in **St Illtud's Church**, established around 500AD, and be amazed by the treasures within. The Galilee Chapel, at the western end of the church, is currently being restored as an exhibition space for the church's extensive collection of early Christian stone monuments.

The Town Hall and the Church will be open between 12 noon and 4pm

Dewch i wylïo proses atgyweirio ar waith yn yr **Henblas**. Stryd y Castell, wrth i'r perchennog a'r saer maen Anton Jones fwrw ymben â'i waith o adnewyddu'r hen faenoridy Tuduraidd hwnnw. Bydd teithiau tywys am 11.00am, 1.00pm a 3.00pm, ac am na fydd llawer o le ar gael bydd yn rhaid i chi gofrestru ymlaen llaw drwy ffonio 01446 704799 / 704828.

Mewn rhan arall o Lanilltud Fawr, bydd cyfle prin i chi weld adeilad canoloesol **Neuadd y Dref** yn ei gyfanrwydd yn ogystal â'r Ystafell Dreftadaeth, a rhoi prawf helyd ar eich gwybodaeth leol drwy gymryd rhan mewn helfa drysor.

Yna, cewch ymlacio o'r diwedd gyda chwpaned o de yn Eglwys Illtud Sant, a rhyfeddu wrth drysorau adeilad sy'n dyddio mor bell yn ôl â 500 Oed Crist. Mae Capel Galilea ym mhen gorllewinol yr eglwys yn cael ei adnewyddu ar hyn o bryd er mwyn arddangos casgliad helaeth o gofodellau cerrig o'r Cyfnod Cristnogol. Bydd **Neuadd y Dref** a'r Eglwys ar agor rhwng canol dydd a 4.00pm.



Further information on the many open buildings and activities on offer throughout September in the Vale of Glamorgan under the Open Doors programme can be found at www.civictrustwales.org. Am fwy o wybodaeth am yr holl adeiladau agored a gweithgareddau sydd i'w brofi yn y Fro ym mis Medi fel rhan o raglen Drysau Agored, ewch i www.civictrustwales.org

NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

September 17-23, 2013

Two-year sight checks are vital to avoid problems

ON Saturday, September 21, Jones & Jones are holding an open day at their practice in High Street, Barry, to mark National Eye Health Week.

The week aims to raise awareness of the importance of eye health and the need for everyone to have sight checks every two years, to look after their eyes.

Dr Adrian Jones, from Jones & Jones said: "We hope as many Barry and Vale residents as possible will attend the open day to mark National Eye Health Week.

"Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss yet over half of sight loss can be avoided, so it is vital everyone takes care of their eyes.

"By coming along to our National Eye Health Week event, you can find out how you can keep your eyes healthy. There will be information on the leading causes of blindness, nutritional advice on eating foods that can protect and improve eye health and simulator spectacles for people to try on to demonstrate what having a vision problem would be like.

"We will also be holding a free raffle to win designer sunglasses, custom made varifocal glasses, nutritional supplements and a 'see better' fruit and vegetable box."

Francesca Marchetti, chair of the National Eye Health Week steering

group, said: "Sight is the sense people fear losing the most, yet many of us don't know the best way to look after our eyes.

"This is why it is so important you get your eye health tested every two years, even if you think your vision is fine, as some eye conditions may not show symptoms. Go along to this event to find out more or visit vision-matters.org.uk".

Facts about vision loss:

20 million people in the UK could be at risk of avoidable sight loss because they fail to have regular sight tests;

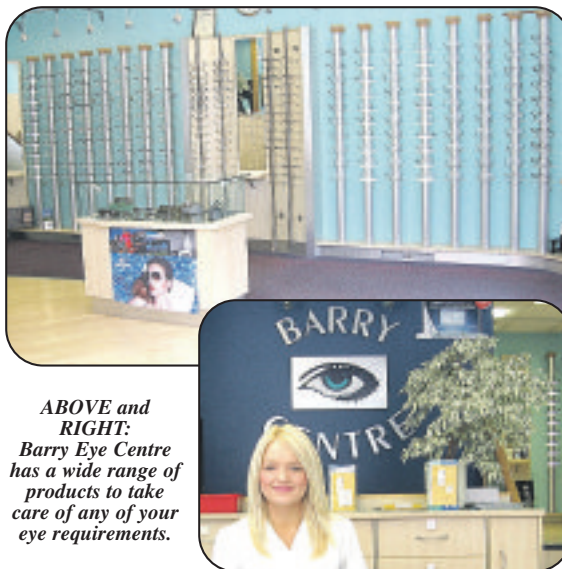
Almost two million people in the UK are living with sight loss, yet over half of sight loss can be avoided. This means that almost two million people have a sight problem which has a serious impact on their daily lives;

The figure is made up of people who are registered blind and partially sighted, and all the other people whose sight problems have a significant impact on daily activities;

Not all of these people can be registered as blind or partially-sighted; Sight loss affects people of all ages;

The number of people in the UK with sight loss is set to increase dramatically. It is predicted that by 2050, the number of people with sight loss in the UK will double to nearly four million.

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Former World War Two PoW camp tours prove very popular

by Dr Jonathan Hicks

ON the weekend of September 21 - 22 the former Second World War prisoner of war camp at Island Farm in Bridgend throws open its doors to visitors for the first time this year.

The bulk of the camp was demolished in the 1990s but Hut 9 - the scene of the German Great Escape in March 1945 - still remains and is normally inaccessible to the public.

However, for two days only, historians and re-enactors, working alongside Bridgend Council's conservation and design team, aim to show visitors what life was like for the prisoners back in 1945.

Owing to overwhelming demand, all spaces on the tours have been fully booked and a waiting list has been filled as well.

A Hut 9 Preservation Group spokesman explained: "We have



ABOVE: Learning all about Island Farm.

been taken aback by the scale of the demand for tickets for the tours. Last year's event proved to be extremely popular but this year's looks like it will be even more successful.

"There will be World War Two re-enactors and vehicles at the main entrance to the camp and I would urge visitors not to park on the A48 or on Island Farm Road but to use the free heritage bus service from the centre of Bridgend.

"The rooms inside Hut 9 will show visitors the differing phases of occupation - from the Royal Ordnance Factory workers through the American GIs up to the German prisoners of war. "We will tell the story of the Great Escape and

inform the public about the ecology of the site."

"Although entrance to the event is free, we will be seeking donations from the public to allow the group to begin our plans for restoration of the building in order to preserve this unique piece of Welsh history. There will also be a table top sale of military books and DVDs."

Members of the public who wish to see inside Hut 9 and who have not been successful in booking a space on the tours are advised to look out for future opening dates.

Full details of the weekend are available at:

<http://www.specialcamp11.co.uk/Hut9OpenDoors.htm>.

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CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO LOCAL HISTORY

WALES' much-loved museums, historic buildings and hidden gems will welcome thousands of visitors this month (September) as part of the annual Open Doors programme.

Hundreds of attractions will offer free entry, with some unique buildings even opening their doors to the public for the very first time.

Organised by the Civic Trust for Wales and supported by Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, Open Doors offers both local people and visitors alike the chance to explore the

hidden treasures of Wales's culture and history.

Anna Lermont, project officer at The Civic Trust for Wales, said: "Many people would be surprised by what is hidden on their own doorstep, so Open Doors is a fantastic opportunity for everyone to explore their local heritage."

Some venues have limited numbers of spaces or require advance booking. Visit www.opendoorsdays.org.uk for full event listings and details of properties taking part in the programme.

Open Doors is organised by the Civic Trust for Wales and supported by Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic

environment service. The programme is part of European Heritage Days which take place throughout September across 50 countries in a celebration of architecture and heritage.

Events in Bridgend county borough are as follows:

Swesky La Boutique, the Old Church, Tythegston, September 24: An opportunity to view this historic church, which is now a bridal boutique. Pre-booking is required, please phone 01656 785302.

Ogmore Valley Local History Society at Ogmore Vale Primary School, Aber Road, Ogmore Vale, September 14, 9am-

4pm: View the Ogmore Valley Timeline and Archive, and the 2004 Ogmore Valley Miners' Memorial. Data and photographic archives will also be available for visitors to view.

Y Llynfi Library, Sport Centre, Maesteg, local and family history event, September 14, 10am-1pm: Llynfi Library is in Maesteg Sports Centre. The building was originally built as an engine house servicing the blast furnaces of the Llynfi Ironworks and was later used as a corn store for the pit ponies of the North Navigation Company.

Launching a newly digitised collection of interviews with local

people dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, visitors will be able to listen to a range of recordings and view a series of photographs of the area from the period. Local experts from the Glamorgan Family History Society will help with family and local history research queries.

Calon Lan Walk, Blaengarw, September 14, 10am and 1pm: Visitors can join two guided walks from the Park visitor centre through Blaengarw, taking in the places where Daniel Jones, the writer of Calon Lan, lived, worked and played. The walk is accompanied by a local historian and is a chance to learn about local history in this min-

ing community and to look at current regeneration efforts.

Porthcawl Museum Old Police Station, John Street, Porthcawl, September 14, 10am-4pm: Collections range from the archaeology of the area to memories of significant local events such as the Samtampa disaster, the formation of the 49th Reconnaissance Regiment, and the opening of the Porthcawl branch line. There will be guided talks and also two heritage walks around Porthcawl itself. A preview of research on Porthcawl and the Great War will be on show.

St David's Church, Bettws, September 14, 12 noon-4pm: A Grade II listed building with modern adaptations; visitors can view the memorial plaques to the Popkins of Coytraen, landowners who lived at Brynmenyn. Church registers will be available for viewing and parishioners will explain the history of the church and help with register searches.

Ty'r Ardd (Local and Family History Centre), Bridgend, September 16-22: As part of Open Doors there will be a photography exhibition focusing on the history of Island Farm Prisoner of War camp. On September 21, there will also be a guided walk which will start from Ty'r Ardd and is organised in conjunction with Love2Walk and the Hut 9 Open Day. It will pass sites of interest in connection with the German Great Escape of 1944. Pre-booking required for the walk, please phone 01656

754810.

Death and Disaster walk, Cefn Cribwr, September 20, 7pm: Visitors can join the Death and Disaster walk which starts at Siloam Chapel to commemorate the four deacons from Siloam who were killed in the Parc Slip disaster in 1892. The walk continues along Bedford Road to hear tales of blind Ann Griffiths and the characters and 'spirits' associated with the White Lion.

At Cefn brickworks, visitors will hear the tale of Joseph Phillips who was dragged into a pudding machine and dangers surrounded every worker at Bedford's ironworks.

Passing the site of the Plough Inn, associated with the wreck of the Samtampa at Sker in 194, Davy Griffiths will tell the story of the ghost of Cefn Junction at the Signal Box. Pre-booking required for the walk, please phone 01656 742348.

St John's House, Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, September 21-22, 10.30am-4.30pm: A Grade II building, St John's is the oldest habitable dwelling in Bridgend. Possibly late 15th-century construction with 16th- and 17th-century alterations it is technically a 'hearth-passage' house with the main fireplace and chimney back in the central passage and spiral mural staircases to upper floors.

The Sons of the Dragon will attend both days and there will be displays of medieval long bows, associated equipment, medicinal herbs, and surgical tools.

Children can play traditional games and try on medieval costume. There will be a visual timeline of contemporary events.

Church of St John the Divine, Church Street, Aberkenfig, September 21, 12 noon-4pm: Built in 1868, the nave was recently refurbished as a community area. Church registers will be available for viewing and parishioners will explain the history of the church and help with register searches.

Hut 9, Island Farm, Bridgend, September 21-22, 10am-4pm: Hut 9 is the sole remaining building of the World War Two POW camp, site of the 'Great Escape' of March 1945, when dozens of Germans escaped through a tunnel they had dug using primitive tools. Living historians and local experts will be on hand to tell visitors the story of Hut 9, including its use as a women's hostel for workers at the nearby ordnance factory, and its time as a GI billet. Pre-booking required, please phone 01656 815209.

Porthcawl Harbour Walk, September 25, 2pm-5pm: Visitors can join the walk and take in Porthcawl Harbour, the refurbished basin and associated listed buildings. It will be led by Aubrey Green, a consultant engineer working on the harbour project. He has an extensive knowledge of the history of the harbour area and will discuss its history as well as recent improvements and future plans.



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FONMON APIARY NEWS

THE fine weather of late has certainly given the bees a boost and I am pleased to say a little honey has come my way.

Treating for varroa is now being undertaken. Not all colonies are receiving treatment, as there is an abundance of brood present in all stages and nectar is still coming in.

This season is about a month behind and as a result the times stated in bee literature for honey to come off and treatments to begin is not at all relevant.

Varroa are the biggest threat and their control has to be addressed; a new product is available, its format is formic acid soaked pads. These are different from earlier formic acid applications as they can be utilised while honey supers are still on the hives.

So why am I not treating all of the colonies?

Well as it is a new formula I do not wish to put all of my eggs in one basket.

The results from a couple of colonies will help me in my evaluation of this product and should it turn out egg-shaped I will not lose all.

The name of this newest treatment is MAQ Strips. Translated to Mite Away Quick strips.

Varying the approach to mite control is sound sense, over the years several generations of miticide have been used but due to stipulated regulations being ignored it has resulted in the mites developing resistance and of course a money-waster to the beekeeper.

Unfortunately, there are still many beekeepers who firmly believe that they do not have a varroa problem, consequently little or no control is

undertaken and then we have a ready supply of mites and their associated problems waiting in the wings.

Quite apart from the varroa, this year has produced an abundance of wasps and they are causing problems to the beekeeper.

Reports are coming in of colonies being lost to invasion by wasps. Why is this happening?

It is the time of the year when wasp colonies proceed to die out. This comes about because the queen wasp has finished laying eggs and there are no grubs (larvae) to be fed by the adults.

The grubs have a diet of meat (caterpillars eg.) in return for this they produce a sticky substance that is the diet of the adult wasps. The lack of their feedstuff means that a search is on by these adults to find a substitute and the contents of a beehive meet their requirements as does your beer, jam, fruit of all kinds and anything remotely sweet and sticky.

Finding such resources means that they can live a few more days, before death overtakes them.

Although I have reduced the entrances to my hives the wasps are very persistent and 'guard bees' are very busy but not always victorious.

The shortening days mean that the bees and I are preparing for the winter to come. Will they survive? I will certainly assist them as best I can and hope that the weather will not be too severe.

We can only hope that spring 2014 puts in an appearance and is not the disaster that occurred this year.

Being a beekeeper requires an optimistic outlook plus the will to tackle all of the problems that are our lot at present.

Harold Williams

AROUND AND ABOUT AT THE VALE SHOW, AS WE CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE DAY

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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LOCAL people will look back fondly at this year's Vale Show, which was blessed with fine weather, which helped the event be one of the best ever.

Local photography Glyn Evans was out and about from dawn until dusk, capturing images that sum up the area's premier rural event!



Results from the show jumping

SENIOR Novice:
First, *Sky Lark* (Mark Edwards); second, *Gemstone* (Georgina Joynton); third, *Just For A Lark* (Mark Edwards); fourth, *KS Panach* (Katy Griffiths); fifth, *Contendros* (Rhianon Gill); sixth, *In The Mood VHF* (Gail Burchmore).
1.05m/1.10m handicap:
First, *Sunshine V* (Amy Thompson); second, *Don't Touch* (Rachel Davies); third, *Super Snoop* (Amy Thompson); fourth, *Unbelievable Eddie* (Mark Edwards); fifth, *Boheim* (Amy Thompson); sixth, *Dreamgirl 2nd* (Bethan Allman).
Senior newcomers:
First, *Dalmerreto* (Sian Edwards); second, *Affa J* (Jake Harris); third, *Primitive Shadow* (Mark Edwards); fourth, *Gaelic Gamble* (Liz Edwards); fifth, *Gemstone Griff* (Georgina Joynton); sixth, *Dejion* (Victoria White).
Senior Foxhunter:
First, *Unbelievable Eddie* (Mark Edwards); second, *Emblem* (Gail Burchmore); third, *It's Showbusiness* (Andrew Davies); fourth, *Extreme Machine* (Mark Edwards); fifth, *Extreme Machine* (Mark Edwards); sixth, *Bettina* (Joanne Bailey).
1.20m open:
First, *Ultra Lux* (Joanne Bailey); second, *Nolton* (Rhianon Gill); third, *Oscar* (Stevie Jenkins); third, *Zandokan* (Rosie Hagerty); fourth, *Sunshine V* (Amy Thompson); fifth, *Harlequin Joe* (Felix McCartney); sixth, *Carrier Z* (Stevie Jenkins).
1.40m open:
First, *Vijlada MW* (Andrew Davies); second, *Wilhelmus S* (Brian Smith); third, *Elektrik* (Andrew Davies); fourth, *Nina Des Vlis* (Sara Arkell); fifth, *Mamma's Tinker* (Mark Edwards); sixth, *Rambo 3rd* (Sian Edwards); seventh, *Ballintekin Laughton Flight* (Rosemary Tilson).
Vale of Glamorgan Speed Championships:
First, *Mamma's Tinker* (Mark Edwards); second, *S Zermi 3rd* (Andrew Davies); third, *Extreme Machine* (Mark Edwards); fourth, *Mr Business* (Eurig Eynon); fifth, *Ballintekin Laughton Flight* (Rosemary Tilson); sixth, *Dusseldorf* (Rhianon Gill).
Two fence challenge:
First, *Tinker's Tale* (Mark Edwards); second, *Ultra Lux* (Joanne Bailey); third, *Fadesh* (Sara Arkell); fourth, *It's Showbusiness* (Andrew Davies); fifth, *Adriana* (Sian Edwards); sixth, *Abraham* (Rhianon Gill); seventh, *USA* (Eurig Eynon); eighth, *Webster* (Eurig Eynon).

Christmas Party Guide

IN THE DASH FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES... the early business catches the venue

by **GEM STAFF**

IT is just 103 days until Christmas Day and now is the time for your business or local organisation to start thinking of where your destination should be for the office party.

The summer nights are sadly drawing in and it may be the last thing you want to think about, but venues across the Vale fill up fast because on-the-ball companies strike early to get the best nights and the best deals.

A major reason to book now is that many people want to book a Friday or Saturday night for the office 'do', so they can have a lie in the next day – delay too long and you'll miss out on two of the two most popular evenings of the week.

Do you really want to be faced with a 'make do' restaurant or hotel just because you left it too late?

Afterall, for many people the office party is the only time that they socialise with their work colleagues in the whole year, and let's be honest, it does have its attractions.

The beauty of going out with your work colleagues is that you see some of them in an entirely new light!

If there's a dance floor at your venue, you can bet that the 'shy

intern' is suddenly the first up when the music starts – and is showing some moves that would do Ola Jordan proud on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

At the opposite end of the scale, there's the manager who, as the evening warms up, suddenly thinks he is John Tavolta, but dances like David Brent. A sight not to be missed! It is a fair bet that a few drinks have given him delusions of youth and a misplaced idea of his dancing prowess.

But the subject of drinking has a serious side that shouldn't be forgotten during the Christmas party season.

No matter how many inhibitions we shed on the night, we all have to be sensible as well.

So, The GEM's advice is this – on the night of the party, *DON'T* drink and drive, and make sure you and any friends who live near you have ordered a taxi well in advance!

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ROAST TURKEY
WELSH BEEF
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CLASSIC NUT ROAST

CHRISTMAS PUDDING
MIXED FRUIT TRIPLE
PROUTERCOLES

COFFEE AND MINTS

£13.00 per person

VALE PACT MEETINGS

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at the Residents Board Office, 28 Coychurch Rise, Barry, on Tuesday, September 17 at 10.30am.

COURT PACT at the Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, on Thursday, September 19 at 6pm.

BARUC PACT at the Barry island Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry on Monday, September 30 at 6.30pm.

DYFAN PACT at North Walk Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, on Sunday, October 6 at 6pm.

COURT PACT surgery was the YMCA Hub, Court Road, Barry, on Thursday, October 10 between 10am and 12 noon.

CORNERSWELL PACT, at Hebron Church, Pill Street, Penarth, on Friday, September 13 at 6pm.

LLANTWIT PACT, at Llantwit Major Recreation Centre on Wednesday, September 18 at 7pm.

WENVOE coffee and chat at the Horse and Jockey, Twyn-yr-Odyn, Wenvoe, on Monday, September 30 at 11am.

Vale cabinet meeting

THE Vale Council's cabinet will be holding its next community question and answer session in Colwinston on Monday, September 23 from 6.30pm to 8pm in Colwinston Village Hall.

The Q&A sessions give Vale residents a chance to question the cabi-

net on any Vale issues. A vow to make local decision-making more transparent and inclusive led the council's cabinet to take its meetings to the community.

Details of all Cabinet meetings, including agendas and minutes, are available on the council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

HARD FOUGHT DRAW FOR BARRY LADIES



Barry RFC ladies' team

BARRY LADIES welcomed Penallta in an eagerly awaited fixture; due to recent transfers to the green and whites the game had an extra edge to it.

Barry chose to play up the slope in the first half and soon showed the away side what a hard game they were in for. Flanker Williams continued her good start to the new season with a number of her trademark crunching tackles.

Unfortunately for centre G Williams, she was injured in the first five minutes and had to be replaced by B Fox. The returning captain K Jones led from the front with a typical charge into the away side mid-field, before the ball was turned over.

Penallta countered quickly and not for the first time, Barry were saved by a tackle from No 15 O'Neill. The home side defended admirably as Penallta tried to utilise the conditions to their advantage.

O'Neill again prevented a certain score, forcing another knock on. The home scrum were holding their own, against the slope and even stole some Penallta ball.

The home side must guard against wayward kicks from their own 22, as one such kick nearly resulted in the first score of the game. A brilliant tackle by second row Young averted the danger.

Barry's side was being tested, but they defended brilliantly, with further try saving tackles coming from Fox and winger Rees. After the initial pressure, Barry gained in confidence and with a powerful scrum turned over Penallta ball.

Shananan at No 9 was controlling the ball superbly and giving her opposite number a torrid time. When Penallta infringed, S Williams and Cahill tore into the away defence from well timed passes from the scrum half. Ka Jones picked up an injury and on came Horne.

Coleman on her debut was winning some clean line out ball for the home side. The home side then took the game to the away side with Yapp and her forwards making inroads into the Penallta half.

Barry then started applying the pressure down the right wing. As the forwards took the ball in field, Barry battered the Penallta line. The forwards then set up quick ball for Shananan to provide a slick pass to the right wing Rees to power over; the conversion was missed to make it 5-0.

With the clock running down Penallta came back at Barry and scored a try far out on the Barry right touchline, which went unconverted. Penallta's tails were

up and they sensed another score only for O'Neill to again thwart them with another try saving tackle.

The Bombettes turned around and immediately started to use the conditions to their advantage in the second half. The scrum was working well and forcing Penallta backwards at a rate of knots.

Substitutions were made with Perry and C Rees coming on and Hill replacing Phillips at No2 for her debut. The forwards then used some sublime handling skills, offloading in the tackle with Cahill, S Williams, Horne and Potter driving Penallta back towards their 22.

The home side started to exert some real pressure but when the home support expected another try, the odd wrong decision and knock on cost them possession and territory.

From turnover ball Penallta sprinted into the home 22. From another lose home kick, Penallta re-gathered the ball and forced their way over the line in the bottom corner, which went unconverted.

With the clock counting ominously down, Barry tore back into the Penallta half. They camped in the away 22 and were deemed held up over the line.

From another dominant scrum, K Jones wasn't to be denied and muscled her way over for an equalising try to make it 10-10. Despite her best efforts, the conversion failed to cross the bar and the game ended all square.

Barry must have thought they had allowed a win to escape them, but must be congratulated on holding last year's champions. Barry's woman of the match was Anna O'Neill and Penallta chose Kim Jones

Team: Ka Jones, Phillips, Cahill, D Young, C Coleman, Husk, S Williams, Yapp, Shananan, Bannister, J Rees, G Williams, K Jones (c), H Brown, O'Neill. Replacements: Cushen, Hill, C Rees, Fox, Horne, Perry and B Jones.

In honesty, Penallta were far happier with the draw than the home side. This is another step forwards for the green and whites and bodes well for the rest of the season; when these ladies start gelling properly and injured players return, look out opposition, this will be a formidable team!

The Bombettes travel to Tylorstown on Sunday, September 15; any supporters wishing to travel contact Rachel Baron or the club.

KJ

Barry Cadets 'living and breathing' RAF



2013 RAF Linton

AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, Air Training Corps have recently returned from their annual camp at RAF Linton-on-ouse.

The purpose was to live and breathe the Royal Air Force for seven days.

The Cadets were joined by Cadets from 1367 (Caerleon), 1223 (Caerphilly), 2353 (Ystrad Mynach) and 2478 (Abergavenny) Squadrons.

The Cadets undertook many exciting activities including flying, visiting Elvington aircraft museum, go-karting, live firing of the No 8 and L98 rifles, sports, orienteering, high ropes course, team building exercises and an army confidence course.

The highlight of the week was the Grob Tutor flying. All Cadets flew a 45 minute sortie in the modern two-seater Grob aircraft.

Flying at 2,000 feet the Cadets gained excellent aerial views of the surrounding countryside and also had the opportunity to fly the aircraft under supervision from the pilot.

The brave Cadets experienced the thrills and sensations of aerobatics.

The Cadets who attended were: Alex Spragg, Vicky Williams, Rhys Williams, Jack and Pippa Cowles, Rhys Horton, Steph Jones, Jamie-Leigh Bird and Kieren Long.

Cadet Steph Jones said: "The camp was amazing, there was so

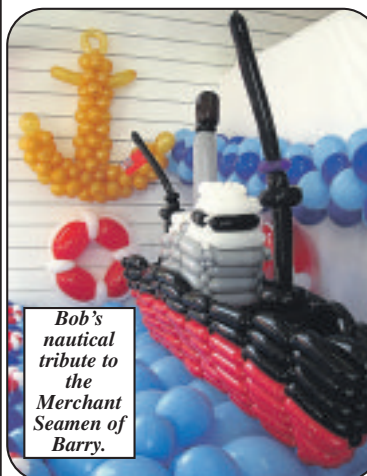
many great activities to do all the time, I especially enjoyed shooting and I am looking forward to camp next year."

All the Cadets enjoyed their annual camp and are now looking forward to a busy training programme of Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions, their annual trip to Belgium, sport, flying, gliding, sports and shooting activities.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13 - 18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm - 9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734 email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information about joining or the Air Training Corps.

JH

Dr Bob in Merchant Navy Day tribute



Bob's nautical tribute to the Merchant Seamen of Barry.

BOB ARM-STRONG of Dr Bob Balloons Unlimited on High Street, Barry, used his artistry to create a window display for Merchant Navy Day, September 3.

Last week, David Simpson wrote an article in The GEM pointing out the importance of that date - it was the first day of World War Two - and emphasising that we should not forget the historical sacrifice of

Barry's seafarers.

Bob explained: "Barry has a big Merchant Navy history and contributed so many people who lost their lives.

"In Queen Street and Princess Street 76 people were lost - and of course there were many others throughout the town, including young boys."

Bob decided to create his tribute after a recent conversation with David who he knows.

Not long ago, Bob discovered from his father that two of his great uncles died when their ships were sunk.

WI's donation to Ty Hapus



June Davies (WI president), representative of Ty Hapus, Adrian, who attends Ty Hapus and Jeanette Chilcott (WI secretary).

A CHEQUE for £500 was presented to a representative of Ty Hapus on Tuesday afternoon at Barry WI's meeting.

As stated in a previous issue of The GEM, a coffee morning was held by the ladies to raise the money. Once again thank you to all who made this possible.

Mayor's praise for wartime weekend

COUN Claire Curtis, the Mayor of Barry, recently attended the Barry Wartime Weekend on Barry Island organised by the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre.

Barry Town Council supported the event by sponsoring a Spitfire for the weekend.

Coun Curtis said: "What a wonderful event and my congratulations must go to Ade Pitman and the volunteers for organising this weekend of nostalgia.

"I attended the event on both Saturday and Sunday, as well as the 'Back to 1943' party on the Saturday evening and thoroughly enjoyed myself. There was so much to see and do at the Heritage Museum, from information about the Vale during the war to a fashion show of original 1940s clothing.



Coun Claire Curtis with the Spitfire sponsored by Barry Town Council.

"I was especially proud to be able to view the Spitfire, sponsored by Barry Town Council, and see it take pride of place on the station platform."

Coun Curtis added: "I was thrilled to see so many people of all ages come along to support and enjoy this event, and I hope that Barry Wartime Weekend becomes a permanent fixture in the events calendar here in Barry."

MARGAM PARK PLAYS HOST TO A GREAT EVENING OF WEST END FAVOURITES

PHOTOGRAPHS by
RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com
01656 662324

THE magnificent setting of the Orangery at Margam Park provided the stunning setting for a recent performance of hits from West End musicals.

Hosted by Beverley Humphreys (presenter of the BBC show, *Beverley's World of Music*), the audience were entertained by two exciting young singers – established West End performer, Katy Treharne, who has appeared in *Phantom of the Opera*, and a new talent, Adam Robert Lewis (a finalist in the Duvant MVC Young Musical Theatre Singer of the Year 2013).

Accompanied by a nine piece orchestra, conducted by the Jeff Howards, the performers took the audience on a journey through shows such as *Miss Saigon*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Oklahoma!*, *West Side Story*, and many more.

The event also featured performances from the local choir, Noteworthy.



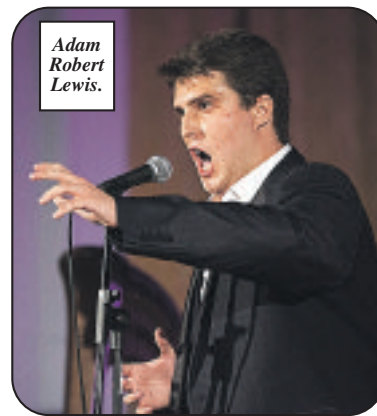
The Noteworthy Choir.



Katy Treharne.



ABOVE: Beverley Humphreys.



Adam Robert Lewis.

SMILING FACES THAT PROVE THE VALE SHOW IS THE PLACE TO BE IN AUGUST



PHOTOGRAPHS
by MIKE WILCOCK

August may be a time when people traditionally take family holidays but, in the Vale, so many people make sure that they are around for the Vale Show – it is very much the place to be for the members of the rural community!



Vale MP Alun Cairns and Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies AM, with friends.



Vale AM Jane Hutt with Coun Gwen Baty, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, and Coun Sian Vaughan.



PENCOED RUGBY ROUND-UP

Opening day defeat for the first team



Pencoed Phoenix.
PHOTOS BY JULIE HANCOCK.

PENCOED failed to take their many opportunities in this Division 3 South West match against Taibach, their handling inaccurate at vital moments.

Having created a number of chances in the opening quarter they found themselves 10-0 down, the home side countering from 60 metres at pace for right wing Gareth Williams to finish, Richard Hopkins converting, before furthering the Taibach lead with a penalty goal.

At this stage Taibach had turned over a number of mauls; in contrast Pencoed were having the edge at scrum time. A promising Pencoed attack then broke down, however on this occasion second row Chris Howells did well to get back and recover possession for Lloyd Ryland to break the gain line, and recycled ball saw supporting skipper Dan Howells plunging over for Tom Cross to convert, and Taibach led 10-7 at the interval.

The home side extended their lead in the opening minutes of the second period, home scrum half

Kyle Jenkins exposing the blindsides from the 22, having got away with a blatant scrum feed much to the consternation of the Pencoed support.

Hopkins added a home penalty, and immediately afterwards Taibach extended their lead to 25-7 with a try from centre Matthew Phillips, Hopkins converting.

Pencoed centre Scott Narbeth then made a clean break supported by fellow centre Glen Hiscocks, and only a desperate ankle tap on back row forward Aaron Halse denied Pencoed a try.

The introduction of replacement front row forwards Andrew Shillam and Ieuan Watkins was now appearing to galvanize the Pencoed pack, and they dominated the final 15 minutes.

Firstly the pack drove the home side off their own ball for Halse to get the touchdown. Sustained scrummage pressure then earned Pencoed a penalty try, for Cross to convert.

Suddenly a losing bonus point looked a possibility, and once again the Pencoed pack broke down the Taibach defence, prop forward



ABOVE: Action from Pencoed Phoenix's game against Gwernyfed.

Andrew Shillam driving over.

Unfortunately for Pencoed it was not quite enough, the final score 28-24, and they will reflect on a match they could have won, having outscored the home side by four tries to three!

Some consolation was two match points secured away from home, and a real positive the way in which they finished the match so strongly.

On Saturday Pencoed host Maesteg Celtic in a league match at the Recreation Ground, 2.30pm kick off.

PENCOED 2ND XV 17 MAESTEG HARLEQUINS 2ND XV 16

As the final scoreline suggests this was a closely fought Mid Glamorgan District League match, played at Pencoed's Woodlands ground.

The visitors came with a big experienced pack, posing problems for the home side up front; in contrast Pencoed looked to play the expansive game.

Going into the final moments their game plan looked to have succeeded, before Pencoed club captain Marc Davies, returning following surgery got a late try and conversion to dash the Quins' hopes.

For Pencoed flankers Ricky Evans and Josh Halse were prominent, getting through a lot of work, while behind the scrum centre Rhys Watkins ran hard, with Rhys Flint sound as the last line of defence.

PENCOED YOUTH 20 NANTYFFYLLON YOUTH 0

Pencoed youth can feel

pleased with this comfortable win in the Welsh Youth Cup at the Recreation Ground.

Pencoed coaches Gareth Jones, Dorian Russell and Dai Clark were particularly pleased with the emergent first year youth players in what was essentially a good all round team effort.

Pencoed tries came from Jordan Fox, Isaac Bolton and Rhys Clark, with Jamie Pensom adding a conversion and penalty goal. Pensom was the stand out player behind the scrum on the day, while new captain Connor Jones led the side well.

PENCOED PHOENIX 17 GWERNYFED LADIES 17

This was a frustrating performance for both Phoenix players and supporters alike following their pre-season tournament success, the backs unable to repeat the cohesion shown on that occasion.

It was Phoenix however who opened on the attack and combined play saw back row forward Amy Stevens angle her run to cross at the posts; Lauren Aitken converted.

Gwernyfed hit back almost immediately with a try from their left wing, and Phoenix led 7-5. Hannah Seward then extended the Phoenix lead to 12-5, cutting through at pace from 30 metres out.

Shortly after Seward sustained a bad injury and following a lengthy stoppage was taken from the field of play. Following this the visitors enjoyed their best period of the half, getting their second try.

Phoenix were having the edge at the scrum-mage, but their use of possession was letting them down. A take against the head allowed Phoenix to move into the visitors' half where centre Katie Murphy broke to hand off her opposite number and ran in from some 40 metres. Phoenix led 17-10 at the break.

Phoenix again opened the half on the offensive, but their hands were letting them down. Gwernyfed returned to the attack, Stevens getting back in defence to hack the ball out of play to stop a dangerous visitors foray.

Fellow Phoenix flanker Kathryn Stonehouse was popping up all over the park making tackles, and disrupting the visitors play, and was enjoying probably her best game for Phoenix. A vastly improved Gwernyfed side then levelled matters 17-17 and despite late Phoenix pressure on their line, hung on for a deserved draw.

The visitors chose Katie Murphy and Kathryn Stonehouse as joint Phoenix players of the match.

Post-match news filtered through that Seward had both a fracture and wrist dislocation injury; all at Phoenix wish Hannah a full, and as speedy a recovery as possible.

Phoenix under-15s will this season have qualified coach Leanne Casley (07921312897) at the helm, and prospective players, old and new, are welcome (over 12/under 15 as of September 1, 2013); qualified first aiders and CRB checked personnel in attendance. **TR**

Bridgend Sports junior round-up

AN injury depleted under-15s side played host to Penarth on the main 'Bandstand Pitch' in only the second match of the season.

What ensued was 96 points being scored over the 70 minutes between the two teams. First the Bridgend side would score only for the Vale side to reply with a try of their own. Coaches shouted words of encouragement and then gave calls of frustration as the other team scored.

As Hywel was injured, kicking duties fell to Tom who responded admirably, hardly missing all afternoon as well as scoring three tries, winning himself man of the match.

Criticism could easily be aimed at the failures in certain aspects of play but it must be remembered this is only the second match this year and the lads showed great character in responding with, what must be said, at times, some breathtaking team tries.

Defence must be tightened up but credit must be given to Penarth in playing their part in the proceedings in what was a tough but good natured game of rugby.

Tries: Scott (2), Dom (3), Tom (3), Evan; man of the match - Tom.

UNDER-14S
The team travelled to Abercwmboi for the first game of the season with great numbers - 19 in all.

The game started at a very quick pace and after only a few minutes of play, Will Prosser, who was playing at outside half, spotted a gap and cross kicked into the space with a well weighted boot that allowed Joe Duffill to sprint onto, and secure some early points.

This certainly set the pace to the game, as the home team were not going to give up and made a play to get their star man into the game.

He was a very strong and athletic centre, and once he secured the ball, he managed to crash through our lads and made a good 40-50 metre run to score under the posts.

From the restart both teams were in good form and a loose pass from Aber allowed Dylan Parry to intercept and over he went to make it 12-7.

We camped out in their half and after forward play, managed to get the ball out wide and Drew got over the white-wash for the third try of the day.

Just before halftime the setpieces moved closer to our own line and inevitably Aber got over the line twice, which brought the score

to 21-17 at halftime.

The second half was very much the same as the tries kept coming from the Sports forwards. Dewi crashed over for two, Joe Davies got one and Drew converted them all.

Aber were still resilient and came back with two tries of their own in the last five minutes but fortunately we managed to edge the game 35-38.

Excellent team work was shown by all, and in some ways a new squad of players which included our friends from Maesteg who joined us. Let's look forward to building on this and enjoying the rest of this season.

UNDER 11S
The under-11s had a good win against Beddau, the final score 19-0; well done boys.

UNDER 10S
The under-10s came up against a well drilled team in Llanwit Fadre.

What followed was an exciting match with the ball fiercely contested at the rucks. Sports showed their attacking intent whenever in possession, but squandered a couple of chances by not spreading the ball wide and attacking the space.

The Sports should be proud of their efforts against a strong team with one score the difference, the final score 20-15, try scorers Owain, Ollie and Domi.

Training continues every Wednesday 6pm to 7pm on the Bandstand.

UNDER 9S
The under-9s got their season off to a flyer with a fully deserved away win, 13 - 10, over last week's Pencoed festival winners Beddau.

As both teams had large squads, it was decided to play four 10 minute games; the first game kicked off and both sides showed their intent with good hard tackling and superb running.

The game ended 2-2.

with both tries coming from Shea Duggan.

In the second game the team was rotated and were caught cold and let in three tries; however Shea scored again to make the score 3-1 to Beddau.

After a good team talk, the Sports went into another gear in the third game and won it 5-2. Fynn Bull opened the scoring with a fantastic try, while McKenzie Grey stepped up yet another gear and scored the next four tries.

In the fourth game McKenzie, still on fire, scored another three tries. Although Beddau pulled back two tries, Shea went over for his fourth of the day. Beddau then scored another, only for Cameron John to score a brilliant try, to make the score 5-3.

This was an excellent performance from both sides, each giving 100% effort and a great advert for the game. With performances like that, Bridgend Sports under-9s are going to be very hard to beat this season.

MVP was awarded to Cameron John, for outstanding tackling and scoring a brilliant try.

Squad: McKenzie Grey, Fynn Bull, Sam Barraclough, Morgan Burke, Oliver Cooke, Tristan Davies, Shea Duggan, Max Harris, Max Hemsley, Dan Hughes, Jacob Hughes, Cameron John, Daniel Morgan, Morgan Palethorpe, Curtis Trezise and Joe Wilkinson.

UNDER 8S
The under-8s won against Beddau 7 - 1; well done boys you were all amazing and should be proud.

UNDER 7S
Congratulations to the under-7s, 9-1 winners over Beddau in an excellent performance.

Try scorers were Ben (4), Jack (2), Owen (2), and Sam; player of match goes to Ben. Well done, keep up the good work. **VT**

Golf club's charity day

IN what has become an annual event, the veterans of St Athan Golf Club held a charity golf event in aid of Cancer Research Wales.

A total of 120 golfers competed throughout the day, many coming from around south Wales.

We were blessed this year with fine weather for the whole of the day's play; the matches commenced at 7.42am with the competitors playing a four ball better ball Stableford competition.

The winners were as follows: First, Mr A Williams and Mrs G Williams (St Athan), 50pts; second, Mr B Wake and Mr D Harris (St Athan), 47pts; third, Mr E Hallett and Mr J W G Morgan (St Athan), 46 pts; Mrs A Baxter and Mrs M Vecchi (St Athan) 46 pts; fourth, Mr H

Williams and Mr S Hopkins (St Athan/Coed y Mwtwr), 45 pts.

Over 80s competition: First, F Morgan and L John (St Athan), 41 pts.

There were also six twos on par three holes awarded; nearest the pin went to Mr C Russell (St Athan) on the 6th, and to Mr J Richards (Mond Valley) on the 16th hole.

Later that evening, a cheque for £2,000 was presented to Laura Hooper representing Cancer Research Wales by veterans captain Mike Hogan. Laura thanked everyone who took part for the very generous donation.

Sincere thanks to all the local businesses in the Vale for their sponsorship, and to all those who contributed in making this another very successful day.

HPM

Bridge results

BRIDGE lessons at Bridgend will recommence on Thursday, September 19.

These will be suitable for those who have played some bridge but would like to consolidate and improve their bidding and card play.

There will be a lesson at 2pm followed by a practice session from 3-5 pm (with assistance if required).

For further details and to reserve a place please contact either John Evans or Steve Burgoyne.

On September 4 the club took part in the Wednesday heat of the Welsh Simultaneous

Pairs. At the club, the results were: 1st Liam Sheridan and John Beard, 2nd Wendy Williams and David Barwood, 3rd Ray Smith and John Evans. Although 4th at the club, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner achieved the best national result where they are currently in eighth position.

Friday, September 6: 1st John Whateley and Tony Disley, 2nd Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams, 3rd Irene Thomas and Alan Grant.

Thursday's top improvers were Susan Hunt, V. Irene Thomas and Stuart Davies.

JE



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Family Notices

THOMAS

Godfrey David James

Died peacefully on Tuesday, 3rd September at Princess of Wales Hospital. Beloved husband of Valerie, loving father of Haydn and Helen. Bampy of Rebecca, Emily and Charlotte and son-in-law Paul. He will be sadly missed.
Funeral Service to be held at Mid Glamorgan Crematorium, Coychurch, Bridgend on Monday, 16th September at 1.45pm.
Family flowers only, with welcome donations to Ward 2, Princess of Wales Hospital c/o Thomas Brothers, Greengate Cottage, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

DAVIES

Jane Elizabeth

Peacefully after a long illness, Jane, loving wife of Mike, much loved mother of Arron and Matthew. Daughter of Olive and sister of Elaine.
Will be sadly missed by all.
Funeral Service at Llanmaes Church on Wednesday, 18th September at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to Velindre Fundraising, Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

BOWLES

Joyce

The family would like to express sincere thanks for all the sympathy messages, cards and to all who attended Joyce's funeral. Special thanks go to staff at ward A4 UHW, GJ Care and Parkside Residential home for their care and compassion. Thanks also to Reverend Adrian Berry for conducting the service. A total of £300 was raised for Ty Hapus in Barry, many thanks to everyone who donated.

FERGUSON

Helene

Peacefully, on September 3 at Llandough Hospital, Helene, aged 92 years, of St Athan, beloved wife of Ernest.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnon. Funeral Wednesday September 18, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

BONNICK

Aline

Peacefully on 4th September at her home in St Athan, Aline, dearly loved wife of Bert and loving and much loved mother of Joyce, Aileen, Moira and Alan. She was a loving grandmother and great grandmother and will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral Service on Monday 16th September at 10.30 a.m. in Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please) All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son 01446 792489

POWELL

Philip Rhys and Vanessa June

Suddenly on August 23 at their home in Swindon, Philip and Vanessa, formerly of Rhose.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnon. Funeral Tuesday September 17, service and cremation 10.30am at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to RSPCA c/o J James, 11 Ffnon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

ASPROU John

John Asprou of Barry peacefully passed away, aged 76, on 9/9/13 in the presence of his family.
Loving husband, devoted father, grandfather and brother.

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RICHARDS

Joyce Amelia

(formerly of The Broad Shoard, Cowbridge)
Passed away peacefully on 3rd September 2013, aged 89. Very much loved mother of Pamela, Dennis and Chris, grandmother and great grandmother. Beloved sister of Thelma.
Funeral Service to be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Thursday, 12th September followed by cremation at Bridgend Crematorium.
Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff or Dementia Research made payable to Dementia Research Centre, Box 16, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London, WC1 3BG.

THOMPSON

Sarah

Sarah Jacqueline Thompson (née Chivers) of Jacques' Fruit and Vegetable Shop, Park Crescent, former secretary of Holton Road Football Club.
Wonderful wife of Mark, loving mother of Robbie and Sam, adored daughter of David and Jacqueline Chivers, beloved sister of Joanne and Andrew Prosser.
Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her service at All Saints Church, Barry, on Wednesday September 18th at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.
Family flowers only, donations to Cancer Research. Sarah's wishes were: men to wear pink or colourful ties, ladies to wear something pink.

Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FINN

Nethercott-Jones

4 YEARS OLD

11th September, 2013

Love, Nanny Pat XXXX

Happy Birthday Gwyn Dunn
Happy 70th Birthday Bampa
(13 September 2013)
Lots of love Hannah xxx

HAPPY 21st
Happy 21st Birthday Nathan Payne
on 14 September 2013.
All our love, Mum, Dad, Catherine, Chantelle & Petey xxx

JOE PAPA CONSTANTINOU
Happy 18th Birthday
We love you lots
Mum, Rob, Maria, Josh, Owain, Nan & Bri xxx

Sports get taste of things to come

NEWLY-PRO-MOTED Sully Sports RFC travelled to Caerau Ely RFC for their first league game in the WRU Division 5 south east last Saturday and it was clear from the kick off that both teams were determined to start their season with a win.

The big tackles were going in from the referee's whistle and the first 10 minutes saw Sports getting the upper hand, forcing Caerau to defend in and around their own 22.

Both sides demonstrated forceful hitting and effective clearing out at every breakdown as possession was fiercely contested at a pace which kept supporters glued to the game.

Sully Sports' scrum was awesome and they took complete control of the set piece regularly pushing Caerau off their own ball and securing several gains against the head.

Sports seemed to be doing everything right until their first handling error presenting Caerau with their first real chance to attack. Caerau did not waste the opportunity and fed their backs who impressed spectators with the speed that they reacted, turning defence into attack followed by some blistering pace to see them cross Sully's line and open the scoring.

Sports restarted well and immediately put Caerau under pressure, resulting in a turnover. John Dimond put in a telling chip, putting Caerau's full back under so much pressure that he had no option but to hold onto the ball illegally, conceding a penalty which was duly converted.

Sully Sports' efforts were wasted when just minutes later they conceded a penalty, giving three points back to Caerau.

Hope was restored just after the restart when another deft chip from Dimond was quickly followed up by Sports backs, who forced the turnover; quick hands put Jake Williams free to score a try which was converted.

Again Sully's efforts were to no avail as a handling error presented Caerau with possession and their backs reacted quickly and were rewarded with a try which was unconverted, leaving the half-time score 15-13.

The game continued much the same way in the second half, with crunching tackles in a fast and physical game.

Unfortunately for Sully Sports, their handling of the ball deteriorated even further and as a result, the ball rarely advanced further than the centres.

Nathan Taylor, Sully's speedy winger, received quality ball only once throughout the game and he was lucky not to be charged a spectators' entry fee.

However, he showed exactly what he is capable of when Caerau's winger broke away and with no full back and, the line beckoning, a try seemed the only conclusion - to the cheers of Caerau supporters.

They were silenced when Nathan Taylor slammed their ball carrier to ground with a tackle so fierce it created ripples on Ely reservoir, it was a try-saving tackle worthy of mention.

With Sully's forwards dominating throughout it was disappointing that Sully conceded a further converted try and a penalty to end up losing 25-16.

Sully's handling clearly let them down on the day and, while they more than matched the opposition in fitness, strength and determination they lost out to Caerau's speed to react and superior ball handling.

Perhaps Caerau gave Sully Sports a taste of what to expect for the rest of the season.

JB

LOCALS REACH WORLD CUP!

TWO men supported by the Vale Council's mental health team are celebrating after playing for Wales in this year's Homeless World Cup.

Nick Sidford and Gareth Davies, who have been members of the Amy Evans Community Mental Health Team's football group for several years, recently returned from the 2013 tournament in Poland.

Although the squad, named the Welsh Dragons, missed out on winning the trophy, Nick and Gareth say their involvement in football has had a profoundly positive impact on both their mental and physical health.

Nick and Gareth have returned from Poland triumphant, not only at being selected for the team and playing for Wales, but for making positive changes in difficult circumstances.

Anniversaries

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Happy Diamond Wedding Anniversary
60 years of marriage on 12 September

"Very few couples reach the Diamond date, So in honour of your 60th year, It's time to celebrate! So raise a glass to each other, A toast to love and to life, For a wonderful thing happened, 60 years ago, When you became husband and wife!"
Congratulations & much love from all the family xxx

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ON Sunday, September 8 the Ferguson T20 Ploughing Championship was held in the Vale for the second time.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' images, both young and old were captivated by the machinery and skills on display.

A full report on the event, and more pictures, are on page 20.



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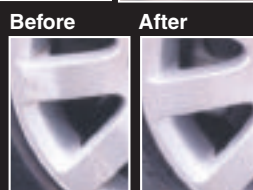
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Barry (rugby) thirds hit a century!

BARRY 3rd XV made their bow in the Cardiff & District League Division 2 with the visit of Whitchurch 2nd XV on a fine September afternoon.

The management team of Ken Chow and Chris Prosser handed a debut to Nick Thomas in the second row, and recalled Craig Noble at scrum-half for his first start in eight years. Josh Cabot made his first appearance in the match day squad while Nick Rolfe returned as captain.

With the elements and slope behind the home side, they knew that it was vital that they got off to a good start. With the management's instructions for an aggressive approach in the contact area still ringing in their ears, the players got stuck in right from the off, and the visitors had no answer to Barry's power and know-how.

Noble was the first to benefit, as he cut through the Whitchurch defence to register Barry's first points of the afternoon. Adam Lee converted the try; it was not going to be his last.

The floodgates, so often threatening to open but usually slammed shut, were blasted from their hinges as wave after wave of Barry attack yielded tries by the bucketful. Fly-half Ryan Corrigan was the next on the score-sheet, utilising his elusive running skills to score under the posts. Lee's conversion was a formality.

Corrigan was making hay against a disorganised defence, and his distribution to his fellow backs, whether by boot or hand, was at its devastating best. Noble was proving unplayable at scrum-half, while the scrum was destroying their opposition counterparts.

The bonus point was tied up after less than 20 minutes, as Corrigan and Noble both notched a brace, with Lee

converting both before adding tries to his own name.

Last season's player-of-the-season Lloyd Jones scored his obligatory try before halftime, while recalled centre Michael Ayaient also joined the party by grounding between the posts. At halftime the game was all but over for the visitors.

To their credit, Whitchurch did not throw in the towel and tried to rally themselves with commitment in the tackle area despite the one-sided nature of the game. In the period immediately after the restart, Barry found tries harder to come by.

The floodgates eventually had to reopen and Corrigan completed his hat trick before Mike Jones got into the act, rewarded with two tries for his fine support play. Glenn Griffiths also touched down to register his first try since his return to Barry colours, with substitute Tony Jenkins also scoring before the end.

Lee maintained his perfect record with his boot by converting all 15 tries to bring the score to an astounding 105-0 to the hosts.

Barry 3rd XV will look to continue their momentum as they travel to Cardiff Saracens this weekend, while the second XV open their league campaign at home to Cardiff HSOB second XV.

Team: Bailey; Griffiths, Lee, Ayaient, Evans; Noble, Corrigan; Corne, Turnbull, Lundy; Westall, Thomas; M Jones, L Jones, Rolfe (c). **Replacements:** Ring, Cabot, Hall, Jenkins. **Man-of-the-match:** Noble.

For the latest team news, player statistics and match reports, visit the official website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/barryrfc, or follow the club on Twitter (@Barry_RFC) and Facebook ('Barrians').

THE captain's charity day at Wenvoe Castle is traditionally a big event in the calendar but this year exceeded all expectations, with over 220 entries from golf clubs throughout the region taking in a fun golf day with overall aim of raising funds for the nominated local charity, Ty Hafan.

The excellent weather continued to play its part and contributed to the success of the day. The event was boosted by the generous sponsorship by Club Choice Ireland who provided the three main prizes in the form of golf package holidays to include accommodation, golf and return ferry crossings.

During the course of the round players took on challenge after challenge with the opportunity to pick up a prize for nearest the pin at the three par 3 holes, target golf on the 12th fairway and finish with nearest the pin with the second stroke on the testing 18th hole. This exciting finish was watched by the ever increasing audience on the club's panoramic patio, raising ironic applause as the approach shot slid past the 'nearest' mark.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and club members sponsors there were some excellent prizes on offer and this extended to the raffle which was very well supported.

Leigh Ivory and Andrew Tailby of Wenvoe Castle took the first prize with an excellent 45 points. Runners up were Peter Pemberton and Neil Kelly with 44 points just ahead of John Donovan and Roy Hill with 43 points. All three pairs can look forward to a golfing stay in Ireland.

Results: Nearest the Pin 2nd hole (Sponsored by Aztec Assemblies) - Mags Lewis, whose team were each presented with T-shirts; nearest the pin 9th hole - Rob Picton (Wenvoe Castle); nearest the pin - 15th hole - Phil Macey (Rhonda Golf Club); nearest the pin 2nd stroke 18th hole - Andrew Tailby (Wenvoe Castle); putting competition - 10 strokes over 6 holes - Craig Miller; chipping competition - Martyn Rhys; target golf 12th hole - no individual winner and all prize money to donated to the charity.

As the competitors waited for the presentation they enjoyed their meal relaxing to live music provided by the excellent duo, Rhythm Method, and were encouraged to support the raffle with all the proceeds going to the nominated charity.

Ahead of the presentation Rebecca Chick, business and community fundraiser for Ty Hafan, outlined the aims of the charity in providing comfort care and support to life limited children, young people and their families.

Fundraising was a major source of income to cover the annual costs of over £3 million each year and the income from the charity day would be a great boost.

Larry Byrne, managing director of Club Choice Ireland, presented club captain Barrie Jones with the sponsorship prizes and complimented the club on the organisation on the day, looking forward to further involvement in supporting competitions.

Barrie Jones was clearly delighted with the support he had received on the day and gave particular thanks to the sponsors. He was grateful to everyone who had entered a team in the competition and those who had given so generously throughout the day. The day had certainly exceeded his expectations and the funds raised would make a significant contribution to the work of Ty Hafan.

The captain also thanked the head green keeper and his team for their efforts in presenting the course in superb condition. He expressed his appreciation of the service provided the staff throughout the day, particularly Nicola Sims (club secretary), Simon Gatheridge (steward) and David Reis (head chef).

Special thanks were extended to club members Mike Froud and Mike Driscoll, together with Ken Howells (vice club captain), who was responsible for organising the event. The support on the day by the ladies section was significant and the lady captain was presented with a bouquet of flowers for their locker room as a thank you for their efforts.

A truly remarkable day which continued well into the night as the live music literally shook the walls of the castle and once again the ghost of Lady Jenner raised a smile, knowing that charity was the real winner on the day.

Well done Wenvoe Castle - more of the same next year.

BJ



Larry Byrne (Club Choice Ireland) presenting club captain Barrie Jones with the sponsorship prizes.



The lady captain being presented with flowers.

UWC Atlantic College students help Lions at the Bob Cook games



ON Sunday August 11, 40 volunteers from UWC

Atlantic College, St Donat's, set out by bus for Swindon, to help out with the Bob Cook Games, an Olympics for adults with learning challenges.

At the Swindon County Ground Sports Complex, they were told the Games were named after the late president of Chippenham Lions Club, whose daughter had learning challenges. They are funded by various Lions Clubs from the region.

Representatives from various Lions Clubs were there, including Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, who had transported members of the Cowbridge Monday Club taking part in the games.

There were athletes competing in a vast variety of events, from sprinting and javelin to bowls and wellie throwing, as avid supporters cheered them on from the sidelines.

Some people were assigned to help out with specific events, others were asked to provide their services in the results tent, and the

rest of the group were introduced to a team to spend the day with.

"I spent most of the day taking care of a non-verbal elderly woman," said Keza, a 16-year-old student from Senegal and France. "I took her around to all the different events and cheered for her. She smiled constantly, and it made me feel really happy. Every time she saw me, she came and hugged me!"

Mile, a 17-year-old student from the Balkan country of Macedonia, was one of those designated to work in the results tent. "We would write the names on the medals, and when they called out the names and numbers of the athletes, they would come to collect their medals," he explained.

"I got to distribute them. It was so rewarding to see how happy they were!"

Though medals were awarded for success after each event, all athletes left with medals at the end of the games.

Teams came from all over Wales and southern England.

Some of the athletes were in their late teens. I spent a good portion of the day chatting with a young man with high-functioning autism.

He was extremely sociable, and introduced me to many of his friends on the team. He will be attending university to study life skills.

He was also very interested in my background, and asked me many questions about my life at Atlantic College and my home back in the United States.

On behalf of the students and staff of UWC Atlantic College, we would like to thank the Chippenham Lions Club for hosting and organising this annual event that we can support.

GAYNOR FRANCIS

Cowbridge and Vale Badminton Club

FOLLOWING another successful year based at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre, male and female badminton players are wanted for the new season.

We meet on Tuesdays 7.45pm and Fridays 7.30pm. Details can be found on www.valebadminton.wordpress.com.

AE

Beavers win medals

BARRY BEAVERS headed out on Saturday, September 7, with 23 of their disabled swimmers to take part in the Welsh Championships.

This is an annual event and a place on the team is much sought after by all our swimmers. Pat Finch the team coach and Eunice Lamb were very pleased with the effort that was put in by all the team members.

It is wonderful to have

Eunice accompanying the team again - we have missed you, and all the team love the encouragement she gives them on poolside.

The Beavers came away with ten medals in total, and they were: - Girls 25m silver for Ffion Jones; men's 25m welsh champion (gold) for Phillip Daly; girls 50m silver for Courtney Rogers and bronze for Shannon Rodgers.

Men's 50m silver for David Lalande, girls 100m silver for Layla Rogers and bronze for Talisha Rogers; Heather

Williams celebrated her birthday by winning ladies 100m bronze and there was a men's 100m bronze medal for Nicholas Cushen.

Our junior relay team (Jesse Rodgers, Shannon, Courtney and Layla Rogers) are now Welsh champions, congratulations to you all.

For David Lalande it was his last gala before going off to Lampeter University to study ancient civilisations. David has been swimming in these galas for many years now and over his time on the team he has won 27 medals and many trophies.

We all wish him well in his studies and will miss him at our weekly swimming sessions and at the galas.

Barry Beavers are still desperately looking for volunteers to help at our swimming sessions on a Saturday afternoon between 3.45pm and 4.45pm at Barry leisure centre.

If we cannot find people that are willing to come and help us we may have to turn disabled swimmers away which would be a great shame as they benefit so much from the water therapy they receive; if you feel you can help please ring Pat on 01446 747683 or turn up on a Saturday afternoon.

DL

New league starts for the under-7s

SATURDAY saw the Vale of Glamorgan football league kick off their new under-7s section.

The format is very simple - teams of four, no keepers, small pitches, and all teams play for 60 minutes at one venue in round robin style.

Last week's hosts were Cowbridge FC, the games held at their local mini pitches at the Cattle Market, Cowbridge.

Andy Pask from the FAW and Lee Saunders have spent the past couple of months behind the

scenes making sure everything was in place. To run a side its not as simple as just turning up, you have to meet a certain requirement, so for a lot of the coaches it was their first experience of taking a team as well as the players' first experience of playing.

I'm sure everyone enjoyed the set up and hopefully teams can grow together and help develop local talent in the area. The parents certainly were a credit to their clubs and encouraged all players.

LEE SAUNDERS

Midweek cricket finals day at Llantwit Major

DESPITE the inclement weather, the Cardiff and the Vale Midweek League Cup finals day was held at Windmill Lane on Sunday.

The Cavs faced off against Penarth in the semi-finals, with James Snelson standing in for injured captain Julian Griffiths. With the poor weather that had occurred during Saturday night, and with a poor forecast ahead for the afternoon, the games were reduced to 10 overs per side.

The Cavs won the toss and batted first, a decision which was immediately vindicated as both openers, Nigel Allison and Harry Withers, had to retire after reaching 25*. The Cavs eventually reached 97 from their ten overs, an imposing total.

Penarth never really looked like chasing down the total thanks to accurate bowling from all the Cavs bowlers, in particular Shane Callard, Andrew Williams and Nigel Allison. The Cavs eventually ran out winners by over 20 runs.

Between the semi-final and the final, Scott Buckley provided plenty of food for the Cavs players and all of the

Cavs would like to thank him for this generous act.

The Welsh Asians won their semi-final against Lisvane and faced the Cavs in the final. The Cavs lost the toss and were made to bowl first.

This time the bowling honours went to Scott Buckley and Shane Callard who, along with a couple of run outs, picked up 5 wickets between them. With a good fielding effort, the Cavs managed to keep restrict the opposition to 82.

The Cavs chase never really got going with 4 wickets falling in the first 3 overs. James Snelson (23*) was the only Cav who reached any noteworthy score as the Cavs finished 30 runs short of the target.

Congratulations to the Welsh Asians on their thoroughly deserved victory.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors: *Simons Plaice, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, Chiroprapist Roz Couzens, Accesstraining.co.uk, Red Dragon Computers, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Jaipur Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine and Nathaniel for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.*

BJ

EXCITING TIMES FOR BOWLERS

THE ladies of Cowbridge bowling club played a friendly at home to Pencoed, which they won by 63 shots to 28, with wins on all three rinks.

The rink with Lin Wallace, Sandra Collin, Janet Morton and skip Helena Snelling had the biggest win, winning by 31-10 shots.

The rink with Dorothy Pritchard, Sylvia Hole, Lynda Wilson and skip Pat Davey, won 17-9, and skip Shirley Wilkinson's rink with Margaret Cooper and Caryl Davies, playing a triples rink, won 15-9.

Lady captain's day was held on Thursday, and the sun shone for a friendly game of bowls with captain Lynda Wilson's team playing against vice-captain Kay Edwards' team, and the result was a two shot win for Lynda.

The afternoon commenced with 24 bowlers and 12 lady social members enjoying a scrumptious buffet and drinks, after which a presentation was made to Lynda in appreciation for a great season.

This weekend we held our finals competitions, with the first two matches played on Saturday morning.

In the men's pairs match, Dennis Snelling and Guy Morton beat Ron Woolford and John Jones by 22-10.

The mixed pairs match was a good and very close game with Alan Wallace and Diane Purnell playing against Roger Barwick and Margaret Cooper.

Needing two shots to win on the last end, Alan and Diane picked up three shots and won the game 21-19.

In the afternoon, playing in the two woods match, Ron Frayling beat Norman Wilkinson 21-8, and in the ladies pairs match, Helena Snelling and Sue Flower beat Diane Lloyd and Diane Purnell (playing in her second final of the day) after 3 & 1/2 hours of play, by 21-11.

On Sunday morning, in the final of the Millennium Plate, Mansel Davey beat Janet Morton, winning by 21

shots to 5. The afternoon brought the highlight of the weekend with the final of the ladies and mens singles matches being played.

In the men's final, Dennis Snelling (playing in his second final) beat Ron Frayling 21-7.

The ladies match was a really good one with two very even players having a very close game, that had spectators on the edge of their seats!

The result was Diane Purnell (again) winning the match after beating Joan Bradley 21-18.

Once again the ladies came up trumps, providing cake and tea for the players and spectators during the weekend.

The ladies' final game of the season will be a friendly at home to Barry Romilly.

NJW

Vale of Glamorgan Show JUMPING RESULTS

SENIOR British

Novice:

First, *Sky Lark 2nd* (Mark Edwards); second, *Gemstone Griff* (Georgina Joynton); third, *Just For A Lark* (Mark Edwards); fourth, *KS Panach* (Katy Griffiths); fifth, *Contendros Quest* (Rhianon Gill); sixth, *In The Mood VHF* (Gail Burchmore).

1.05m/1.10m handi-cap:

First, *Sunshine V* (Amy Thompson); second, *Don't Touch* (Rachel Davies); third, *Super Snoop* (Amy Thompson); fourth, *Unbelievable Eddie* (Mark Edwards); fifth, *Boheim* (Amy Thompson); sixth, *Dreamgirl 2nd* (Bethan Allman).

Senior Newcomers:

First, *Dalmerreto* (Sian Edwards); second, *Affa J* (Jake Harris); third, *Primitive Shadow* (Mark Edwards); fourth, *Gaelic Gamble* (Liz Edwards); fifth,

Gemstone Griff (Georgina Joynton); sixth, *Dejion* (Victoria White).

Senior Foxhunter:

First, *Unbelievable Eddie* (Mark Edwards); second, *Emblem* (Gail Burchmore); third, *It's Showbusiness* (Andrew Davies); fourth, *Extreme Machine* (Mark Edwards); fifth, *Adriana* (Sian Edwards); sixth, *Bettina* (Joanne Bailey).

1.20m open:

First, *Ultra Lux* (Joanne Bailey); second, *Nolton It's Oscar* (Stevie Jenkins); third, *Zandokan* (Rosie Hagerty); fourth, *Sunshine V* (Amy Thompson); fifth, *Harlequin Joe* (Felix McCartney); sixth, *Cartier Z* (Stevie Jenkins).

1.40pm open:

First, *Vijlada MW* (Andrew Davies); second, *Wilhelmus S* (Brian Smith); third, *Electric* (Andrew Davies); fourth, *Nina Des Vlis* (Sara Arkell); fifth,

Mamma's Tinker (Mark Edwards); sixth, *Rambo 3rd* (Sian Edwards); seventh, *Ballintieskin Laughton Flight* (Rosemary Tilson).

Vale of Glamorgan

Speed Championships:

First, *Mamma's Tinker* (Mark Edwards); second, *S Zermi 3rd* (Andrew Davies); third, *Extreme Machine* (Mark Edwards); fourth, *Mr Business* (Eurig Eynon); fifth, *Ballintieskin Laughton Flight* (Rosemary Tilson); sixth, *Dusseldorf* (Rhianon Gill).

Two fence challenge:

First=, *Tinker's Tale* (Mark Edwards) and *Ultra Lux* (Joanne Bailey); third, *Fadeth* (Sara Arkell); fourth, *It's Showbusiness* (Andrew Davies); fifth, *Adriana* (Sian Edwards); sixth=, *Abraham USA* (Rhianon Gill) and *Webster* (Eurig Eynon).

Llantwit lions roar!

WEDNESDAY evening saw the first league fixture of the season for Llantwit under-14 Lions against local rivals Cowbridge Town.

The Llantwit squad has some fresh faces in it but the quality of football served up to the supporters on the sidelines has not changed, with Llantwit running out

convincing 6-0 winners.

Having won the toss Llantwit elected to play down the slope in the first half and immediately set about putting the Cowbridge defence under pressure, which soon resulted in an opening goal for Liam Butcher who met a dropping high ball sweetly on the volley and put it wide of the keeper and into the corner of the net. More pressure from

Llantwit resulted in a mix up in the centre of the Cowbridge defence and Angus Mitchell expertly took advantage to fire into the net.

Liam Butcher struck directly from a free kick 20 yards out and then completed a first half hat-trick to ensure Llantwit went in to half time 4-0 up.

Llantwit continued to play attractive and attacking football up the slope with Liam Butcher scoring a fourth and forcing a Cowbridge own goal to cap a fine individual performance amongst a fantastic team performance, with every single member of the team working hard to ensure a clean sheet for the team.

Saturday's visitors were Holton Road with Llantwit prevailing 5-1.

In a tight first 20 minutes, man of the match Angus Mitchell gave Llantwit the lead, only to see Holton Road score an equaliser from long range after some hesitancy in the heart of Llantwit's defence.

This proved to be the only error from an increasingly dominant Llantwit defensive unit and further goals were added by Lewis Brown, Moses Gee, Liam Butcher and a cracker from distance from Ben Boyd, to ensure a comfortable win. MB

MB

Tim's easy winner

BERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan saw his five-year-old Experimentalist land the Simon and Edwina's Wedding Day Novices' Hurdle at Southwell last week.

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, the long odds-on favourite, who was carrying top weight of 11st 5lb,

romped home 44 lengths from *Reeway Lass* partnered by Paul Moloney.

Tim is the leading trainer at Stratford and a double there last Saturday brought his total number of winners over the course to 24 which is seven more than Pembrokehire's

Peter Bowen has notched-up in the last five seasons.

Tim's double was initiated when seven-year-old Jimbill, running for the first time in 309 days, won the Beginners' Chase by seven lengths from Another Kate trained by David Richards at Abergavenny.

The second leg of Tim's double came around an hour and half later when eight-year-old Fairwood Massini took the Handicap Chase coming home two-and-a-quarter lengths ahead of Alan King's Henry San.

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Bridge results

COWBRIDGE and District (Llanblethian) bridge club results for September 3:

1st (joint) Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 58.33% & Helen Rutley and Mike Rutley 58.33%; 3rd Anne Hughes and Teri Pollard 57.08%.

Old Hall Bridge Club results for September 4: 1st Terry Evans and Alan Lewis 68.75%; 2nd Terry Reilly and John Raymond 68.33%; 3rd Graham Norris and Susan Norris 59.17%.

The club meets every Wednesday at 7pm and currently has vacancies for new members.

GR

Juniors get medals

A small team of eight Llantwit Major Juniors travelled to Saunton Sands, Devon for the 2013 GB Surf Life Saving Championships, returning home with an amazing eight medals.

The team consisted of Tamara Pitt, Megan Osborne, Lauren Prynnne, Rhys Richards, Josh Goldby, Cory Brooks, Dylan White and Braiden Bennett.

The competition consisted of sea (swim, board and surf ski) and beach events (1k run, sprints and flags). The sea conditions were very challenging and several team events had to be cancelled, but not before the boys completed an excellent board relay and Braiden Bennett an excellent sea swim.

Medals were awarded to the following: Megan Osborne - 1st Flags, 2nd Sprint, 2nd 1k run and 2nd beach relay. Tamara Pitt - 1st Sprints and 2nd beach relay, Josh Goldby - 2nd Beach relay, Dylan White - 2nd Beach relay. Junior co-ordinators Jen Pitt and Steph Robinson would like to thank all the competitors and parents for all their dedication and hard work.

Special mention should go to Tamara Pitt who has been selected to the Welsh Life Saving Team to compete in Ireland in September.

Beach relay team - Megan Osborne, Tamara Pitt, Josh Goldby and Dylan White. Board Relay team - Dylan White, Braiden Bennett and Cory Brooks.

JP

Injury brings under-13s game to an end

IT was a day of mixed fortunes for the Llantwit Major RFC under-13s on Sunday.

Travelling to Taffs Well with a squad of 17 players, all eager to participate in the game, on arrival the Llantwit coaches were informed that the home side could only muster enough players for a seven-a-side match!

Although disappointed with this set back, the game went ahead in the sevens format and it was soon evident in the first half that the Llantwit squad were far too physical and talented for the home side.

Within 15 minutes, tries by Dylan Holloway (3), Liam Padmore, Brandon Hughes, Jos Harris and Jac Wisendon had put the visitors ahead by seven tries to one.

Powerful running by second row Connor Treadgold was a constant

threat to the defensive line of the home side by this time, leaving them in disarray.

There was to be no result to the game, however, as, just before half-time, a Taffs Well player unfortunately received a trauma injury requiring emergency medical treatment, and it was at this point the game was brought to a premature end.

Thanks to the Taffs Well coaches and officials for their willingness to allow the game to go ahead.

Llantwit Major under-13s welcome new players, either experienced or not, to join the current squad. Training takes place every Tuesday at the Llantwit Major rugby club, commencing at 6pm.

For more information contact team manager, Brian Henson on 07976874741 or coach Kris Pilcher on 07557128861.

KVV

Youngsters enjoy the Community Games event

THE Vale council's Communities First team organised a fabulous day out for local youngsters, courtesy of Street Games Wales.

The Community Games event drew hundreds of young people to Cyncoed Campus, Cardiff, on August 21, where people between the ages of 12-18 gathered from all over Wales to take part in the event.

Barry Communities First arranged to involve youngsters from their local community to take part in various activities such as netball, football, hockey, tennis, table tennis, basketball and many more.

Taster sessions were offered during the day,

including climbing, roller skating, DJ-ing, graffiti spray painting, breakdancing, street and urban dance.

Lucy, one of the participants, said: "I had fun crafting my own graffiti board and taking part in as many activities as I could get involved in. Thank you to Barry Communities First for organising a great day."

Communities First PCSO Kate Johnstone, who attended the event with fellow PCSO Nicola Smith, said: "It was a fantastic day for the group that attended from Barry. They got to take part in a variety of sports, some of which they had never tried before, and make use of the excellent sporting facilities in Cyncoed.

JUNIOR SQUASH SEASON STARTS

AS a new season gets underway, Cowbridge junior section coaching will start this Saturday, September 14.

All players ranging from complete beginners to competitive team players between the ages of 7 and 17 are welcome to come along to the club every Saturday morning between 10am and 12 noon.

Coaching is provided by two qualified UK level two coaches and registration will take place this Saturday at 10am.

Why not come along and try it out - we'll make sure you have some fun while you are there!

For further information please contact Niall Sloan on 07831 481338. NS

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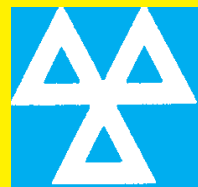


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GEM sport

Athletic edge out Blackwood in a thrilling encounter

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC edged a 62 point thriller played at 100mph throughout against Blackwood; when trailing 29-30, outside half Steven Lewis pulled the game out of the fire, slotting his fifth, and the winning, penalty in the last minute.

The Athletic gave Championship debuts to wings Daniel Howells and Michael Powell, scrum half Ross Parsons, hooker Dan Vella and flanker Garrick Armstrong. All five players fully justified their selection.

The back line only had three regulars from last season, outside half Steven Lewis, centres Stuart Morris and Nick Hinton, while full back Lyndsey MacAusland returned from a long term injury which saw him miss most of last season.

The Athletic opened the scoring in the fifth minute. Jonathon Stoker won lineout ball 30 metres out and set up a forward drive. No 8 and captain Sean Williams peeled away and ran 20 metres before putting supporting flanker Ben Howe over in the corner.

The lead was short lived when following an excellent bout of handling, wing Daniel Davies crossed under the posts. Outside half Paulo Emmanuelli added the extras.

The Athletic immediately responded when scrum half Rod Parsons broke from a scrum, forcing the visitors to concede a penalty in halting him. Lewis restored the Athletic lead at 8-7.

In the 12th minute Lewis extended the lead when he intercepted a pass on halfway and outstripped the defence. His conversion of his own try extended the lead to 15-7.

Emmanuelli reduced



Rhod Apsee and Ben Howe in action for Bridgend Athletic.
PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

the Blackwood deficit, kicking a penalty awarded for a high tackle. It was one of his last actions of the game as he suffered an injury attempting to halt a rampaging run by burly centre Stuart Morris.

Another Blackwood attack was halted 10 metres inside the Athletic half. The ball squirted out of the side of a ruck for wing Michael Powell to gather and sprint 50 metres to cross in the corner to make the score 20-13 to the Athletic.

A feature of the half was the Athletic's dominance in the scrum with the front row of Matt Muir, Dan Vella and Rhodri Apsee causing their opponents problems in the new look set scrums. The pack was also prominent with driving mauls and ball carries from locks Jonathon Stoker and Griff Davies.

This forced Blackwood to concede two penalties in quick succession, which Lewis slotted to extend the lead to 26-13. The second penalty came with Blackwood killing the ball on their own try line. To the amazement of the Athletic, no yellow card was shown by the referee.

This was compounded when a minute later, the Athletic flanker Garrick Armstrong was

shown yellow for the same offence close to the Athletic try line. Blackwood took full advantage of their one man advantage when flanker Lee Taylor dived over for a try from a tap penalty 5 metres out, which Matthew Hutcheon converted to make the breathless half time score 26-20 to the Athletic.

Blackwood came out with all guns blazing at the start of the second half and for 15 minutes pinned the Athletic inside their half.

Excellent defence particularly by back row forwards Ben Howe, Garrick Armstrong and Sean Williams, and crunching tackles by the best Athletic back Lyndsey MacAusland kept the visitors out.

The dam finally gave way in the 55th minute with a short range try by wing Owen Williams converted by Hutcheon putting the visitors 27-26 ahead.

This galvanised the Athletic into action and a period of stalemate was finally broken by Lewis slotting his fourth penalty to restore the Athletic lead at 29-27. From the restart the Athletic were penalised and a Daniel Davies penalty inched the visitors ahead at 30-29.

The Athletic threw everything at the visitors in the final eight min-



Dafydd Howells makes a break.



Lyndsey MacAusland is tackled by a Blackwood player.

utes. Wing Michael Powell saw his chip ahead just cross the dead ball area before he could get his hands on it.

Replacement No 8 Sean Derrick crossed the try line but the referee adjudged he had been held up and failed to ground the ball.

The pressure finally paid off when the superior Athletic scrum, with replacement prop Wayne Fookes and hooker Nathan Holman now in the front row, forced Blackwood to concede a penalty from a 5 metre scrum.

Lewis coolly slotted his fifth penalty for a match haul of 22 points to give the Athletic a very hard earned 32-30 opening day of the season victory.

If all games are played in this spirit the Athletic supporters are in for a treat this season.

This weekend the Athletic visit Pooler, who themselves had an opening day 41-21 victory at Beddau, before

returning to Newbridge Fields for an much anticipated local derby against newly-promoted Tondy on September 21.

NANTYMOEL 2ND XV 3 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2ND XV 48

Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV ran in eight tries in a convincing away win against their Nantymoel counterparts.

A very strong scrum-mage, with front row forwards Huw Morris, Liam Griffiths and Lewis Davies to the fore, set up a hat trick of tries for No 8 Rhys Jones - two from pushover scrums and the other from a driving line out.

Other try scorers were Lewis Davies, lock Matthew Thomas, flanker Harry Griffiths and wing Darren Lewis.

Full back Nick Jones rounded off the scoring with a 60 metre try; outside half Tom Cole converted four of the tries.

AB

RIGHT:
Jason Davies looks to off-load for Kenfig Hill. PHOTOS BY PETER GILLING



SKILL AND POWER SEES KENFIG HILL HOME

INFLUENTIAL Kenfig Hill back row forward Steve Gillard had to temporarily leave the field with a blood injury almost straight from the kick off against Llangennech.

However, this did not upset the Mules' equilibrium and they played strongly until he came back on, with outside half and captain Nicky Giles putting a long range penalty over.

Some first class tactical kicking from Giles gave the home side a distinct advantage and a superb passing move started by scrum half Tom Briggs saw blind side wing forward Jason Davies cross the line, Giles succeeding with the conversion. The Mules crossed the line again only for it to be disallowed for a double movement.

Kenfig Hill attacked straight from the kick off and a sprint by winger Tom Davies saw him tackled almost on the line.

He made the ball available for full back Rhodri Clark who was following up and he made no mistake, picking the ball up and crossing the line.

Llangennech fought back and back row forward Dan Griffiths scored following a pile up close to the line.

Giles replied with two further penalties before Llangennech outside half Aled Roberts closed the scoring in the first half with a penalty to make it 21-8 at half-time.

The visitors opened the scoring in the second half when hooker Chris Francis scored from a tapped penalty close to the line. Giles replied with a penalty



Marc Fitzgerald in action.



Tom Davies evades a tackler.

Llangennech came back at Kenfig Hill who had to defend strongly and after some sustained pressure some slick passing between forwards and backs saw Steve Gillard finish off the move.

The visitors scored two late tries, one doubtful, through blind side wing forward Chris Strick to make the final score 29-23.

This was a highly entertaining game against a big powerful Llangennech side, but the skilful play and strong tackling saw the

Mules triumphant in the opening game of the season.

Scott Waller was named as man of the match for Kenfig Hill with fellow back row man Steve Gillard also having an outstanding game. Livewire hooker Karl Davies shone and props Matthew Davies and Gavin Reffell outplayed their opposite numbers.

Centre Marc Fitzgerald and wings Tom Davies and Curtis Kerton shone for the backs.

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